

HONGKONG WEEKLY PRESS

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. XLIX.]

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 15TH APRIL, 1899.

No. 15.

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BIRTHS.

On the 12th April, at "Dunford," Peak, the wife of H. W. BELL, of a son.

On the 12th April, 1899, at the Bungalow West, the Peak, the wife of PAUL BREWITT, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 3rd April, 1899, at the Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. Newcomb, JAMES ARTHUR PRATT, to LUCY MARGARET MCINNES, eldest daughter of H. A. MCINNES, I. M. Customs.

At the Roman Catholic Church, Kobe, on the 4th April, HENRY ALFRED SENNETT, to MARIA MAGGIORANA GUATINI.

On the 5th April, 1899, at St. Joseph's Church, Shanghai, by the Rev. F. C. Frin, S.J., ROBT. J. LEA WRIGHT, E. E. Telegraph Co., son of Jas. Wright, Singleton, N.S.W., Australia, to EDITH, second daughter of the late Alexander and Ellen CAMERON, of Warayure Station, Western District, Victoria, and Moreland House, Coburg, Victoria, Australia.

At St. Joseph's Church, Hongkong, at 3 p.m., on Tuesday, the 11th April, JAMES RALPH CAPELL, second son of George Capell, Watford, Hertfordshire, to HELEN (RANNIE) HAHN, second daughter of Albert Hahn, Hongkong.

DEATHS.

On the 2nd April, at Miyanoshta, ALEXANDER O. KLEINWORT, a native of Stettin, Germany, in his 50th year.

At Shanghai, on the 4th April, 1899, GUSTAV KRUMHOLTZ, aged 58 years.

On the 6th April, suddenly, at 3, Scott Road, Shanghai, JOHN JUSTER, formerly an old resident in Hongkong, aged 67 years, deeply regretted. (By telegram.)

On the 11th April, at the Government Civil Hospital, H. SEBASTIAN HART, of Shanghai.

At Nanking, on the 21st March, 1899, HANNAH BOSHER, of the Society of Friends, and for over six years a nurse at the London Hospital.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 9th March arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Gaelic*, on the 8th April (30 days); the French mail of the 10th March arrived, per M. M. steamer *Salazie*, on the 11th April (32 days); and the English mail of the 17th March arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Coromandel*, on the 13th April (27 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK

Monday next, the 17th instant, has been appointed the date for hoisting the British flag on the new territory recently added to the colony of Hongkong. The ceremony will take place at Taipo.

The first stone of the cotton factory at Haiphong was laid on the 2nd April. Most of the leading officials were present, the Governor-General being represented by deputy, and the affair was treated as a function of importance.

Mr. M. Boyd Bredon, Commissioner of Customs, who has just returned to Hongkong from leave, is appointed to Kiangchow, Hainan. Mr. James H. Hart, Commissioner of Customs, who has also been at home on leave, is expected at Shanghai next week.—*N. C. Daily News*.

A proclamation to the people of the Philippine Islands has been issued by the American Civil Commissioners in which promises of good government and respect for civil rights are held out, but the unconditional surrender of the insurgents is insisted upon in the first place.

Consul-General Wildman is in receipt of a telegram from H.E. Major-General Otis as follows: "Vessels under a foreign flag can clear at the Consulate for Iloilo and Cebu only, not for other island ports. You may clear vessels under the American flag for any Philippine port open for trade. Trade with Negros Island and northern Leyte ports now very active."

Mr. Fearon, Chairman of the Shanghai Municipal Council, has been on a visit to Peking. A result of the visit, the *N. C. Daily News* understands, is that the Diplomatic Body have decided to confirm and enforce the new Land Regulations without waiting indefinitely for the Tsungli Yamèn's approval; and that the extension of the Settlements is really in a fair way of being arranged satisfactorily.

A Peking telegram received by local mandarins at Shanghai states that H. E. Li Hung-chang arrived at the capital from the Yellow River on the 1st instant and had a special audience of the Empress Dowager on the 2nd. The Empress Dowager treated H.E. with great consideration, giving him a stool to sit on, beneath the Throne, after he had performed the usual obeisances.—*N. C. Daily News*.

At Macao, on the 10th inst., Colonel Brown, D.S.O., the military attaché of the British Legation at Peking, while on a visit to Macao, became involved in some difficulty with the Portuguese authorities owing to his failure to take off his hat while a religious procession was passing. Contradictory accounts of the affair have been given, one statement being that Colonel Brown was placed under arrest, while on the other hand it is denied that there was any arrest. It is admitted, however, that his hat was knocked off, and that he went in company with a Portuguese officer to the British Consulate.

It has at last been decided where H.M.S. *Victorious* will be docked. Not finding the "six inches to spare" sufficient to risk docking the battleship at Hongkong, she will leave the harbour to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock for Japan, instead of starting to-day on a four day's prize-shooting trip. On arriving at Yokohama preparations will be immediately started to run the warship into Yokosuka dock; but before being able to get in she will have to be lightened to a 25-foot draught.

Mr. C. J. Dudgeon, of Shanghai, who is leaving for a holiday at home, received a cordial send off at the Shanghai Club on the 5th April. Mr. Byron Brenan, Consul General, acted as spokesman on the occasion and in concluding his speech said it had been their intention to offer Mr. Dudgeon a piece of plate as a mark of the esteem in which he was held by his many friends—there are 200 on the list—but, unfortunately, it was not yet ready, so all they could do that day was to assure him of their good wishes, and say that a concrete silver embodiment of them would follow him later on.

H.M.S. *Grafton* arrived at Woosung on Monday evening, 3rd April, at six o'clock, with Sir Claude MacDonald on board, having left Weihaiwei on the 1st. Sir Claude was conveyed to Shanghai the same evening in one of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s launches and left shortly after midnight with Lady MacDonald in the China Merchants' steamer *Kianggüf* for Hankow, escorted by H.M.S. *Imnet*. The *N. C. Daily News* of the 10th April says:—H.M.S. *Grafton* has gone up to Nanking to meet Sir Claude MacDonald, who leaves Hankow to-morrow. The British Consul-General, Mr. Byron Brenan, is also going to Nanking this week to meet the British Minister there.

A pretty wedding was solemnized at Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, on the 4th April, when Major Hamilton Bower, commander of the new Chinese Regiment at Weihaiwei, was united in matrimony to Miss Ainsley. The bride was attended by three charmingly dressed little bridesmaids, the Misses Inglis and Miles, and was herself most charmingly dressed. The bridegroom, who was attired in the handsome uniform of the Bengal Lancers, was attended by Lieut. Newman, of the *Bonaventure*, the officers and men of which were present in great force. The ceremony was performed by Rev. H. C. Hodges. After the honeymoon, which will be spent in Shanghai, the happy couple will proceed to Weihaiwei.—*China Gazette*.

What's in a name? An Indian contemporary remarks very appositely:—It is unfortunate that the bubonic plague has come to be called the plague *par excellence*. "Plague" has its suggestions of deadliness and spreading infection, and a disease that comes to be called by that name comes to be more dreaded than diseases which, though they may commit more havoc, are called by less appalling names. Cholera, small-pox, malarious fever, the dengue fever, yellow fever, typhoid fever, diphtheria, diabetes, dysentery, may be and often are more largely fatal than the bubonic plague, but are they as much dreaded? The experience of London, commemorated by Defoe, and the name by which the disease is called, have combined to make it terrible. Let it be called *bubonia* or by some other such name, and it will take rank with the diseases which, however serious, are too common and numerous to excite special alarm.

THE KOWLOON EXTENSION.

The long-expected papers with reference to the Kowloon Extension are published in Saturday's *Gazette*, and Monday next has been fixed for the hoisting of the British flag in the new territory. It will be noted with satisfaction that negotiations with reference to Kowloon city and the extension of the northern boundary so as to include the town of Shun Chun are in progress, and it is to be hoped that they may speedily be brought to a satisfactory conclusion. In the meantime the addition to the colony has to be taken over with a thorn in its side, in the shape of the maintenance of native rule in Kowloon city, and an unsatisfactory boundary on the north. It appears to be in contemplation, also, to raise revenue in the new territory by the discreditable system of farming. By one of the Bills to be introduced in the Legislative Council, the Governor-in-Council is authorised to make rules for farming out "the right to sell or otherwise deal in" spirits, opium, salt, or any other commodity whatever. We trust the Legislative Council will not pass this law, or, if it be passed, that His Excellency and the Executive Council will refrain from making any such rules, and will resort only to reputable means for the raising of revenue.

Barring the defects alluded to in the foregoing paragraph, the arrangements with respect to the new territory are such as we think will meet with public approval. The administration to begin with is to amount to little more than supervising local bodies and protecting life and property, but the new territory is to be considered an integral part of the colony, and as its resources and requirements become better known, the necessary legislation will be passed. It is apparently hoped that there may be mineral wealth to be developed; roads are to be made; and the Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, in his report, says the construction of a railway between Canton and Kowloon would greatly aid the development of the new territory, that in the event of a main line being constructed it would be advisable to establish branch lines, and "It has also been suggested that, even if the Canton-Kowloon line be not established at once, light railways should be constructed in the new area. They would, no doubt, help to develop it and increase its population by attracting people to it, but roads seem to be the first requisite and should be attended to as soon as possible." In Mr. LOCKHART's report—or which the hon. gentleman may be complimented—will be found references to the various industries of the district as they exist at the present time.

The scheme of administration drawn up for the new territory marks a new departure in local politics. It is not so long ago since we were told of the impossibility of grafting representative institutions upon Crown Colony government, but the administration of the new territory is based largely on the representative system and an extension of that system to the city of Victoria can no longer be consistently refused. Each village is to have what will practically be its own Sanitary Board, and the Governor is instructed to refer to the Federated Malay States for precedents on this point. In the Secretary of State's despatch we also have an admission that the Sanitary Board is the best machinery for dealing with the sanitary affairs of Hongkong. All danger of the dissolution of that useful body may now therefore be considered

at an end and doubtless we shall shortly see its reconstruction upon more popular lines undertaken. There is something of the cloven hoof, however, in the suggestion that the Sanitary Board, though the best machinery for Hongkong, is not suited for the direction of sanitary matters in a territory extending over 376 square miles. There must be some central authority in sanitary as in other matters, and the Sanitary Board would form the best authority; it might hold a similar relation to the village and district Sanitary Boards that the Local Government Board holds to the local sanitary authorities in England.

Another important question is that in relation to the Chinese Customs. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN says that no time should be lost in giving attention to the prevention of smuggling into China and the collection of the Chinese Customs duties on opium. "You will see," he writes to the Governor, "that Her Majesty's Government have come to the conclusion, which—if I understand right—is your own conclusion also, that the only satisfactory solution of this question will be the establishment of some system whereby the Chinese Customs duties on opium imported into China from Hongkong, including the newly-added territory, shall be entirely collected by the Government of Hongkong." While this subject is under consideration it is to be hoped that some means may be arrived at for settling once for all the outstanding difficulties in connection with the Customs, not only in relation to opium but to trade in general.

LANTAO.

Captain CLARKE's letter, published in another column, draws attention to Lantao as possibly the most important portion of the Kowloon extension. Lantao is an island similar in its general characteristics to Hongkong, but larger and with higher peaks. But the point to which Captain CLARKE chiefly directs attention is its excellent harbour. Whether it is actually a better harbour than Hongkong may be doubted, but it is undoubtedly a good harbour, and it is contrary to all recorded experience to suppose that under the British flag such a magnificent sheet of water should remain commercially undeveloped. In the early days of foreign intercourse with China the anchorage of Tongku was largely used by sailing ships, and when the question of founding a British settlement arose Lantao was mentioned in rivalry with Hongkong; but the latter was selected, presumably because it was considered, on the whole, the more eligible. The Governor-General of India recommended Lantao, on the advice of the East India captains, but that advice probably rested on the fact that the Tongku anchorage was closer in to the entrance of the Canton river and had up to that time been more extensively used. However that may be, when British shipping had established itself at Hongkong, Captain ELLIOT's order in 1839 to remove to Tongku, on account of "the anchorage at Hongkong being liable to surprise by fire-ships and war-junks," evoked a vigorous protest from the commanders, who were supported by the Agents for Lloyds and for the Insurance Offices. At that time the predilection in favour of Hongkong had become pronounced. Captain ELLIOT's order was, however, carried into effect, and the shipping was for some time located at Tongku.

In last Saturday's *Gazette* an interesting report by Commander DE HORSEY, R.N.,

on the harbours of Mirs Bay was published, and no doubt we shall in due course have a similar report with reference to Lantao, which may be expected to be of a very favourable character. We are accustomed to think of the harbour of Hongkong as capable of affording "accommodation for the fleets of the world," but, as a matter of fact, the traffic is increasing so rapidly that the available space is beginning to get congested. New-comers complain that all the best berths are monopolised, and that they have to anchor at considerable distances from the business centre. At the same time the men-of-war anchorage is becoming too small for the larger fleets now on the station, and as the Naval Yard Reclamation will contract it still further, it is not improbable that the Naval authorities may claim a considerable slice of the ground hitherto given up to merchant ships. But a few miles away there is another harbour, almost if not quite equal to that of Hongkong, and it seems not improbable that in course of time another town will spring up there that will attract to itself some of the overflow shipping from Hongkong. On Lantao admirable sites for industrial enterprises will be obtainable, for some time to come, at prices that will appear merely nominal as compared with those now ruling in Hongkong, and with good water frontage, now almost unobtainable here. For docks and shipbuilding yards no better location could be desired. Lantao will also probably come into favour, as Captain CLARKE suggests, as a residential centre. In Hongkong for many years past difficulty has been experienced in finding house accommodation for the increasing population, both European and native. At Lantao there is practically unlimited room, and a house with a garden and tennis-court would not be the expensive luxury that it is in Hongkong. With a good service of steamers the journey need not occupy more than an hour, so that it would not be very inconvenient on that score, even for those who had to come into Hongkong every day; but with the growth of independent business at Lantao a community will gradually spring up there to some extent distinct from that of Hongkong. This would especially prove to be the case should the island be found to possess mineral wealth; but that is a point on which it will be prudent not to entertain too sanguine expectations.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE PHILIPPINES.

The proclamation issued by the Civil Commission on Philippine Affairs will be found reprinted in another column. The Commissioners say that "unfortunately the pure aims and purposes of the American Government and people have been misinterpreted to some of the inhabitants of certain of the Islands." Have the American authorities ever up to the time of the issue of the proclamation attempted to give a true interpretation of their pure aims and purposes? Did they know themselves what their aims and purposes were? The proclamation would have come with better grace before the fighting began than it does now. The sentiments expressed in the proclamation are excellent, but they are somewhat discounted by the fact that they have only been arrived at in face of the strong opposition offered by the Filipinos to the conquest of their country. Also, while no doubt can be entertained that the sentiments expressed are those which the great bulk of the American people will ultimately entertain, it is doubtful whether

popular feeling is entirely in accord therewith as yet. The Commissioners say that "honour, justice, and friendship forbid the use of the Philippine people or Islands as an object or means of exploitation." But some of the American papers have openly discussed the exploitation of the Islands and have professed their inability to see what use their retention would be if they were not to be exploited. The people of the Philippines, according to the views of this section, were to be made to contribute to the incomes of American manufacturers by the imposition of protectionist laws by which only American products would be allowed to enter the islands and a high range of prices be maintained; and the United States navigation laws were also to be introduced in order that American vessels might monopolise the coasting trade and earn high freights. Although the proclamation does not specifically negative a "closed-door" policy, its spirit is entirely inconsistent therewith, and is suggestive of a very mild and benevolent protectorate.

There is, however, a want of definiteness about the proclamation. This appears to be the view taken of it by the Europeans at Manila, judging from a few interviews on the subject with leading business men published by the *Manila Times*. An English business man, holding one of the most prominent positions in the city, does not think the proclamation will influence the rebels much, one way or the other, but he considers it indicates a strong and decisive policy on the part of the Americans. Another resident says the proclamation is indefinite; "it gives substantial arguments, but it does not define anything; it does not say how things are to be carried on in a way that the Filipinos would like, and how the Government is going to be formed." Another influential business man asked whether the first clause meant absolute annexation or a protectorate; if it meant a protectorate it would have been better to have left out the first clause and commenced with the second. The Filipinos themselves, as well as on-lookers interested in the problem, will also ask what the clause means. The most interesting of the interviews published by the *Manila Times*, however, is that with one of the most prominent Spanish business men, who speaks from long experience of the Philippines. This gentleman says the proclamation is a very excellent production, very interesting, but entirely valueless from a practical point of view. If it had been issued on the 14th August, or even on the 2nd May, it would have been quite another story, but now the probability is that hostilities will drag on indefinitely.

"It is said," continues this Spanish gentleman, "that the viper, when caught, stings itself to death, in order to spite its captor. So will the Filipinos; and the country, when conquered, will be devastated. The rebellion is not instigated by the educated, intelligent classes, acting on the masses; but it is of the masses, the unthinking, unreasoning, irresponsible masses. Therefore it cannot be shaken by reason or argument, but only by brute force. And the conditions topographical are obstacles to the application of force: a small band of barefooted woodmen, with no baggage nor any requirements, such as hamper white troops, can hold out for ever in the jungle, the swamps, the mountain ravines. It is a question of years." This authority does not think that the insurgents are misled by their leaders, but that the masses are carried away

by their own enthusiasm for the ideals they have set up. This view is confirmed by the circumstances of the case, for AQUINALDO would not be able to hold his followers together unless they were influenced by motives exercising a more potent force than mere personal attachment or hope of gain. It is the case of a nation struggling for its own conception of freedom, and proving in the meantime, by the orderliness of the territory under its administration, its humane treatment of prisoners, and its self-control under trying circumstances, that it is not altogether unworthy of freedom. The Philippine people closely resemble the Japanese, stand on much the same plane, and, if they were afforded the opportunity, would, we believe, give as good an account of themselves and their country. If it is the intention of the United States to grant them autonomy, would it not be as well to declare that intention at once and desist from the further carrying of fire and sword through the land?

DISORDER IN SHANTUNG.

The natives of Shantung have been distinguishing themselves lately by the display of anti-foreign and anti-Christian proclivities. Whether or not the news of the atrocious murder of Father VICTORIN in the province of Hupeh has incited the people of Shantung to perpetrate like cruelties on Christians or not, it is impossible to say, but example is infectious, and in China as much so as any other part of the world. Certainly, to judge from the accounts just published of some anti-Christian riots in the Ichoufu district, it would seem as though the Shantung natives had been infected with the savagery of the Hupehites. According to a letter dated from Ichoufu, 24th March, two native Christians were recently burned to death in a public bonfire and two others had their eyes put out by a mob, while a living child was roasted over a fire. Since then, emboldened by absolute impunity from punishment for these crimes, six more Christians have been murdered at Shenshan and three at Feihien, about forty miles from Ichoufu. A foreign priest was only saved from a similar fate by the fleetness of his horse, which he had kept saddled day and night for three months, knowing the peril he stood in. The people who committed these barbarous crimes are, it appears, the same who attacked the three Germans, who, on the 22nd March, made so gallant and successful a stand against an attack by an armed mob. The Germans were Lieut. HANNEMAN and Messrs. MOORS and FORSCHULTS. They had landed from a gunboat on the coast directly east of Ichoufu, and on their way thither stopped at a place called Wangkiachuang, the headquarters of the rioters in that locality. The little party of foreigners, who had their servants and several barrowloads of impedimenta with them, halted in this hornets' nest and were permitted to make their breakfast there in perfect peace and quiet. After leaving the place, however, and when about two li distant, they suddenly became aware that they were being followed by a large body of armed men, about a hundred in number, who proceeded to surround them with obviously hostile intentions. The Germans stopped and faced the natives, and Mr. Moors, who speaks Chinese, urged them not to break the peace or molest his party, stating that they were not Catholics or missionaries of any kind, but peaceful travellers bound for Ichou. But the cowardly crowd were not to be balked

of their prey. They closed in round upon the foreigners and began firing with their guns and gingals. Then the Teuton blood got up; the travellers, seeing the bullets fly round them, determined at least to sell their lives dearly, and drawing their revolvers ran forward and fired at their assailants. Three times they pursued these tactics and with such effect that the enemy broke and fled in confusion, leaving three of their number dead and three more badly wounded on the scene of the disturbance. The travellers' barrows, which had been upset and the contents scattered by the rioters, were eventually recovered with very little loss, being sent after them by the villagers, who seem to have been struck with a wholesome dread of the revolver practice of the Germans. The conduct of the latter is worthy of all praise. They did not in any way provoke the attack, and remonstrated with the villagers before using their weapons. It was only when it became evident that nothing but a massacre would satisfy these savages that the travellers stood on their defence, and then they acted with a coolness and a judgment that produced the best results. It must be admitted they were exceedingly fortunate, for had one of the many bullets fired at them killed or disabled one of their number, the mob would have surely rushed in upon and overpowered the survivors. It is satisfactory to know that an example is to be made of the people of this district, whose appetite for blood is distinctly voracious. The province of Shantung is evidently in need of civilising influences, and it is to be hoped these may reach it presently from Kiaochow and Weiheiwei. The construction of the projected railway from Kiaochow to Weinien and thence to Ichoufu and Tsinanfu will be commenced very shortly, and, though the German punitive expedition to Ichoufu, sent in consequence of the attack on Lieut. HANNEMAN and his companions, may suffice to impress upon the people the advisability of leaving foreigners in peace, it will nevertheless be wise to take a leaf from the example of the Russians in the building of their lines through Manchuria, along which detachments of Cossacks are posted at intervals to protect the workmen and prevent any attempts to destroy the plant and permanent way.

THE SHANGHAI WHARFAGE DUES.

The Shanghai Municipal Council, which makes wharfage dues one of its sources of revenue, has recently handed over the collection of those dues to the Imperial Maritime Customs, with results not altogether satisfactory, if we may accept the following description, given by the *China Gazette* of the 4th inst., as correct:—"Shippers have been unable to get their papers through the Custom-house in as many hours as it formerly took minutes, no provision in the way of extra hands at that institution being made to deal with the additional work; which nobody there seems to know anything about. The result is that shipping clerks were kept from 10 o'clock on Saturday morning till after 5 p.m. dancing around the Custom-house, all over the payment of a few cents in many cases, and cargo was in scores of instances consequently left behind. Yesterday and to-day things were almost as bad, and the new regulations seem generally to have turned the Commissioner and his staff inside out till they can do no intelligent work. The Chinese shippers are making

"attenuous objection to the incidence of the charges as levied under the new regulations, which they say work quite differently from the old system, and we are informed that the Cantonese and Tientsin merchants have stopped shipping any cargo until some obnoxious wharfage dues—on export cargo which were never charged before—are repealed." Probably the difficulties alluded to by our contemporary will be adjusted in course of time, but, now that the wharfage dues have been made practically an addition to the Customs duty, perhaps some attention may be given to the question of principle involved. However convenient the dues may be as a source of revenue, and however light their incidence, we cannot but think their imposition a grave mistake on the part of the foreign community as represented by the ratepayers in annual meeting assembly, which is the source whence authority for the charge is derived.

In the "Memorandum upon the present conditions of foreign trade in China," issued in the early part of this year by the Shanghai Branch of the China Association, stress was laid upon the transit pass question and the importance of getting rid of all irregular levies, and Lord ELGIN'S view that payment of the transit duty should clear goods of all further charge of toll, octroi, or tax of any description whatever is quoted. Yet here we find the Shanghai Municipality setting the example of imposing a toll or octroi at the very port of entry, before a transit pass can even be applied for. That the money is honestly applied to the purpose for which it is levied of course goes without saying; but that is not the question. The point is that the tax is what in Chinese might be called *tsoli*, and if *tsoli* may be imposed for the convenience of the foreign settlement at Shanghai, why not for the convenience of Chinese towns, which equally require money for their municipal charges, and have from time immemorial been accustomed to regard dues on merchandise as one of the best ways of raising it? The Shanghai wharfage dues have never, so far as we are aware, been considered in the light of a practical hardship, but as a matter of principle their imposition appears to entirely give away the case of the foreign merchant against the imposition of dues or duties in excess of those specified in the treaty.

THE KOWLOON EXTENSION.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE NEW TERRITORY.

Monday next, 17th April, is appointed for the hoisting of the British flag in the new territory, and a notification in the *Gazette* declares that day a public holiday under the provisions of section 6 of Ordinance 6 of 1875.

The arrangements for the ceremony of hoisting the flag at Taipo on Monday are as follows:—The Hongkong Regiment will send out a hundred men on Sunday, who will encamp for the night and probably for ten days afterwards. On Monday morning the storeship *Humber* will take a hundred men of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, including the band, a force of Royal Artillery, and a portion of the Volunteer Corps. The *Humber* leaves at 5 a.m. H.E. the Governor and party go out in H.M.S. *Brisk* and the ceremony will take place at 12.30. Invited guests will be conveyed by the river steamer *Hankow*, which has been placed at the disposal of the government by Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, and the Kwong On Company have kindly offered their steamer *Kongnam* for the conveyance of those members of the community whom it has not been possible to invite on the *Hankow*.

H.E. the Governor on landing will be received with a royal salute and six bars of "God save the Queen." Addresses will then be read, on the conclusion of which Lady Blake will raise the Royal Standard and an Imperial salute of a hundred and one guns will be fired. The troops will be in review order and H.E. Major-General Gascoigne and staff will be present. On the conclusion of the ceremony H.E. the Governor will re-embark under a royal salute.

We are requested to draw attention to the fact that the steamer *Hankow* is for the use of invited guests only. The Kong On Company, as already stated, have offered their steamer *Kongnam* for the conveyance of those members of the community whom it has not been possible to invite on the *Hankow*. As only a limited number of tickets can be issued for the *Kongnam*, early application should be made for them at the Registrar General's Office, where they may be obtained free. The *Kongnam* will leave Central Market Wharf. Arrangements will be made for landing passengers. As the place where the ceremony of hoisting the flag is only about 200 yards from the shore, no chairs or other conveyances will be required. The times mentioned above are, we believe, being reconsidered.

Various papers relating to the new territory are published in the *Gazette*. The first dated 20th October, 1898, is the following.

ORDER OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN COUNCIL:—

Whereas by a convention dated the 9th day of June, 1898, between Her Majesty and His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of China, it is provided that the limits of British territory in the regions adjacent to the colony of Hongkong shall be enlarged under leases to Her Majesty in the manner described in the said convention.

And whereas it is expedient to make provision for the Government of the territories acquired by Her Majesty under the said Convention, during the continuance of the said lease,

It is hereby ordered by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice of Her Majesty's Privy Council, as follows:—

1.—The territories within the limits and for the term described in the said Convention shall be and the same are hereby declared to be part and parcel of Her Majesty's colony of Hongkong in like manner and for all intents and purposes as if they had originally formed part of the said colony.

2.—It shall be competent for the Governor of Hongkong, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council of the said colony to make laws for the peace order and good government of the said territories as part of the colony.

3.—From a date to be fixed by proclamation of the Governor of Hongkong, all laws and ordinances which shall at such date be in force in the colony of Hongkong shall take effect in the said territories and shall remain in force therein until the same shall have been altered or repealed by Her Majesty or by the Governor of Hongkong, by and with the advice or consent of the Legislative Council.

4.—Notwithstanding anything herein contained the Chinese officials now stationed within the city of Kowloon shall continue to exercise jurisdiction therein except in so far as may be inconsistent with the military requirements for the defence of Hongkong.

And the Right Honourable Joseph Chamberlain, one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, is to give the necessary direction herein accordingly.

A. W. FITZROY.

PROCLAMATION.

In accordance with the above order a proclamation by H.E. the Governor directs that from the 17th April, 1899, all laws and ordinances which shall at such date be in force in the colony of Hongkong shall take effect in the said territories and shall remain in force until the same shall have been altered or repealed by Her Majesty or by the Governor of Hongkong, by and with the advice or consent of the Legislative Council.

NEW ORDINANCES.

The drafts of three Bills which it is proposed to introduce shortly into the Legislative Council are published. The first of these is entitled "An Ordinance to exempt the territories comprised in the recent extension

of the Colony of Hongkong from the operation of certain laws, and for other purposes." Section 4 provides that where, in any existing grant of any right or privilege or farm or in any existing contract, the expression "the Colony" or the word "Hongkong" or any similar expression referring to geographical limit or extent in relation to the Colony of Hongkong occurs the same shall apply only to the territory which was within the limits of the Colony at the time when such grant or contract was made. The Ordinances which are not to come into operation in the new territory number twenty-two and include the Cattle Diseases, Slaughter-houses, and Markets Ordinances, the Licensing Ordinances, the Opium Ordinances, Public Health Ordinances, the Building Ordinances, and the Births and Deaths Registration Ordinances.

The second is entitled "An Ordinance relating to local communities and tribunals." Its object is to establish village tribunals in the new territory for the trial of petty civil and criminal cases. The civil jurisdiction of these tribunals is limited to cases in which the amount involved does not exceed \$100, and in criminal matters their power of punishment is limited to the infliction of a fine of \$10, with a further fine not exceeding \$10 per day for a continued offence; imprisonment not exceeding one month in default of the payment of the fine; or, in lieu of imprisonment, a flogging not exceeding twelve strokes. (This seems to be equal to eighty-three cents per stroke. It does not appear to be intended to flog offenders who can afford to buy themselves off by the payment of fines.) An appeal lies from the lowest village tribunal, the sub-district court, to the district court, and from the latter court to a magistrate, and from the magistrate to the Governor. The Governor-in-Council is given power to make rules for the peace, good order, health, cleanliness, good government, and well-being of the new territory and for certain specified purposes. The Governor-in-Council is also empowered to make rules for the levying of contributions for the payment of watchmen and for other purposes. The district and sub-district committees have the duty thrown upon them of enforcing such rules, whilst the district and sub-district courts have power to punish breaches of any such rules. Section 18 provides a summary punishment for perjury, and section 28 brings the president and members of village bodies and watchmen under the operation of the bribery provisions of Ordinance 3 of 1893. Section 29 provides for the levying of the whole or any portion of the cost of the police upon a district where good order is not preserved.

The third is entitled "An Ordinance to provide for the better regulation of the new territories." The object is to confer temporary power upon the Executive Council to make rules for the collection of revenue in the new territories. The measure is introduced as a temporary expedient in order to remove difficulties which must necessarily be experienced in dealing with certain sources of revenue which are new to this colony, and in order to obviate the necessity for, and the delays which would be occasioned by passing numerous Ordinances and Amending Ordinances. Rules may be made for, amongst other purposes, the farming-out or licensing of the right to sell "spirits, opium, salt, or any other commodity whatever." The Ordinance is to remain in force for one year and for such further period or periods as may from time to time be determined by the Legislative Council.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S DESPATCH.

SECRETARY OF STATE TO GOVERNOR.

Sir,—I am now in a position to communicate to you the views of Her Majesty's Government as to the future administration of the territory which, under the Convention between the United Kingdom and China of the 9th June last, has been added to the Colony of Hongkong, and to convey to you their instructions as to the steps to be taken for its formal occupation in the name of Her Majesty the Queen.

2.—I have in the first place to enclose an Order of Her Majesty in Council dated the 20th October last and declaring the territories within the limits and for the term described in the above Convention to be part and parcel of the Colony of Hongkong. You will cause this Order in Council, which has not at present been

made public, to be published in the Colony at as early a date as possible.

3.—You have already become acquainted with the general aspects of the questions involved in the transfer of this territory, and it is unnecessary therefore that I should here dwell upon them at any length. There are three points which Her Majesty's Government have regarded as of special importance in the preliminary stages of the negotiations. They relate to Kowloon city, the northern boundary of the leased territory, and the collection of the Chinese duties on opium.

4.—The questions of the civil administration of Kowloon city and of the extension of the northern frontier so as to include the town of Sham Chun will require no immediate action on your part pending negotiations with the Chinese Government, but—while such negotiations are pending—no time should be lost in giving attention to the third question, that of the prevention of smuggling into China and the collection of the Chinese Customs duties on opium. You will see that Her Majesty's Government have come to the conclusion, which—if I understand right—is your own conclusion also, that the only satisfactory solution of this question will be the establishment of some system whereby the Chinese customs duties on opium imported into China from Hongkong, including the newly-added territory, shall be actually collected by the Government of Hongkong.

5.—I should wish you to understand that in my opinion the new territory should from the outset be regarded as an integral part of the colony of Hongkong, and, as such, should be brought under the general administration of the colony at as early a date as possible. It appears to me that future difficulties will be obviated by taking this course, and that it will be found to be at once more effective and more economical than treating the leased district as separate from the old colony. It has, therefore, become necessary to consider whether and in what manner the existing laws of Hongkong may be adapted to the circumstances of the new territory, and this question, as I need hardly observe, presents many features of great difficulty. On the principle that the new territory shall be taken to be and so far as possible be treated as an integral part of the colony, it is desirable that as many of the existing laws of Hongkong as are applicable to its circumstances should be at once applied, the administration of the laws being carried out with tact, discretion, and sympathy with native custom and prejudice; but there are some laws which are inapplicable and they require some special notice.

6.—I have taken advantage of the presence in this country of Mr. Goodman, Attorney General of Hongkong, and he has drawn up a memorandum on the subject together with a draft Ordinance, copies of which are enclosed. This memorandum has been of great use to me in considering the question, and the conclusions at which I have arrived as regards the various Ordinances therein referred to are as follows:—

ORDINANCE 3 OF 1844.—LAND, ETC., REGISTRATION OF DEEDS, ETC., RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY.

7. I concur in Mr. Goodman's opinion that for the reasons given by him this Ordinance need not be excluded. The land question, however, is one which must be dealt with promptly, and one of the first steps to be taken must be the appointment of a Land Commissioner with a staff of native surveyors. To this subject I refer in a later paragraph of this despatch.

ORDINANCE 16 OF 1896.—REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

8.—I concur in Mr. Goodman's opinion that this Ordinance should for the present be excluded. Registration of births and deaths should, however, be carried out as soon as possible, and might be entrusted to the Village Councils and Elders, working under the supervision of an Assistant Registrar General or other European Officer.

ORDINANCE 14 OF 1875.—MARRIAGE REGISTRATIONS.

9.—I agree with Mr. Goodman that this Ordinance need not be excluded.

ORDINANCE 1 OF 1887.—POST-OFFICE.

10.—I agree with Mr. Goodman that this Ordinance need not be excluded. But it has

been pointed out to me by Mr. Lockhart that, owing to the known habits of the Chinese in the matter of correspondence, there may be considerable difficulties in carrying it into operation, and I should wish you to use considerable discretion in the matter. You may possibly find it desirable to come to some arrangement with the Chinese Sub-Post Offices such as is in force in the Straits Settlements, and in that case the Governor of that Colony would doubtless be able to give you every information.

ORDINANCE 21 OF 1887.—LICENSING CONSOLIDATION.

11.—I concur in Mr. Goodman's opinion that it would be as well not to extend this Ordinance to the new territory for the present.

ORDINANCE 24 OF 1887.—PUBLIC HEALTH AND AMENDING ORDINANCES.

12.—I regard this as one of the most important and at the same time one of the most difficult questions to be considered in connexion with the new territory. I entirely agree with Mr. Goodman that the new district must not be left without any sanitary laws, but I consider that it would not be advisable to extend to it without any modification the sanitary laws of Hongkong. It has been represented to me by Mr. Lockhart that they are too complicated and too advanced for the circumstances of the new territory; and that although the Sanitary Board may be the best machinery for dealing with the sanitary affairs of Hongkong, which is in the main a city and a seaport, it is not suited for the direction of sanitary matters in a territory extending over 376 square miles. Mr. Lockhart is of opinion that the Village Councils and Elders should be held responsible for maintaining their villages in a sanitary condition, subject to the inspection and control of an officer of health and his staff, who should be held directly responsible to the Government. By this means the Village Councils and Elders will constitute the Sanitary Board in each village or group of villages, the influence of the leading men will be enlisted on the side of sanitation, and matters will work more effectively and smoothly than they would under any other system. The expense, moreover, of applying the Sanitary laws of Hongkong would, I am informed, probably be very great, whereas under the alternative system proposed it would be comparatively trifling.

13. I am of opinion, therefore, that these laws should be excluded, but you should lose no time in procuring the enactment of a simpler law on the lines above suggested, and here again you may possibly find it desirable to consult the Governor of the Straits Settlements as to the system under which Sanitary Boards are working in the Federated Malay States.

ORDINANCE 21 OF 1886.—SPIRIT LICENSES.

14. I concur in Mr. Goodman's opinion that this Ordinance should be excluded for the present.

ORDINANCE 15 OF 1889.—BUILDING ORDINANCE AND AMENDING ORDINANCE.

15.—I concur in Mr. Goodman's opinion that these Ordinances should be excluded unless the Director of Public Works reports that they can be satisfactorily carried out in the new territory.

ORDINANCE 5 OF 1890.—VACCINATION.

16.—I agree that this Ordinance may properly be included.

ORDINANCE 26 OF 1891.—MERCHANT SHIPPING.

17.—As a new Merchant Shipping Consolidation Ordinance is about to be introduced it may be advisable to exclude the existing Ordinance from the new territory.

18.—There is no question as to the "waters of the colony," the limits being clearly marked in the map attached to the convention, a copy of which is annexed, and which should be closely followed in any definition in the proposed new Ordinance.

ORDINANCE 27 OF 1887.—CATTLE DISEASE AND AMENDING ORDINANCES.

19.—Before deciding whether this Ordinance should be extended to the new territory, the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon might with advantage be called upon for a report of any recommendations he may be able to make after full and careful consideration of all the circum-

stances of the case. But I agree with Mr. Goodman that sections 4 and 5 of Ordinance 23 of 1890 dealing with the sale and importation of unwholesome food should be extended at once.

20.—As all Ordinances not specified in the schedule attached to Mr. Goodman's draft Ordinance will apply to the new territory, you should carefully consider whether there are any others not alluded to in his memorandum, which it might be also desirable to exclude.

21.—There are various other questions to be considered in connexion with the new territory which will require your careful consideration, and some of which have doubtless already received your attention. I do not propose, however, to do more than refer to them generally at the present moment, as their ultimate decision must depend in a great measure on the course of events.

22.—You will have gathered from my previous remarks that I am in favour of utilising the existing machinery of Government in Hongkong as far as local circumstances will allow. This principle should, therefore, be borne in mind in considering all questions connected with expenditure and taxation. Whatever expenditure is incurred should appear on the Hongkong Estimates, and what ever revenue is collected should go into the Hongkong Exchequer.

23.—It will be seen from p. 16 of Mr. Lockhart's report that the total revenue from taxation of the new territory is estimated at about £16,000, and this may be regarded as the income which you will have at your disposal for the first year or two at any rate. It should amply suffice to defray the initial cost of a simply administration which at first will amount to little more than supervising local bodies and protecting life and property, unless there is a large outlay on public works. Some expenditure on public works will no doubt be necessary from the very first, and as the territory progresses this expenditure may naturally be expected to increase. To meet it Mr. Lockhart has recommended that recourse should be had to a loan; but, while I am in principle not averse to borrowing for the purpose of developing a district, a province, or a colony which promises to be remunerative, I must keep in view the present state of the finances of Hongkong, and if the new territory can be developed without having recourse to a loan it will no doubt be preferable. I shall expect to receive your recommendations on this point after you have considered it in all its bearings. It would, however, I think under any circumstances be desirable that the Director of Public Works, possibly with other expert assistance, should consider and make suggestions as to what public works, in the nature of roads, bridges, police stations, etc., should be undertaken at once, and also to advise as to future undertakings. Whenever money is available for the purpose it will be desirable to secure the services of a mining expert to make a detailed geological report, and I shall be glad if you will bear this latter point especially in mind.

24.—The question of titles to land should be settled as early as possible; and in order to expedite the work of registration, holders of land should be allowed to register their titles at an office in the new territory instead of having to waste time by coming to an office in Victoria. The officer, moreover, who is entrusted with the duty of settling the land titles should, within reason, be given for the time being full powers to deal with all questions of the kind that may come before him. When all the land titles have been settled and proper surveys made the principal land office will be in Hongkong itself. The examination into titles should not be of too technical a nature, and where lengthened occupation or improvements can be shown, with no adverse claims from private individuals, a Government title should be granted, even if no other is forthcoming. Security for all reasonable rights in regard to land will be a great inducement to content and loyalty and to the popularising of British rule.

25.—The land question, however, by no means ends here, and there will be much left to consider after the preliminary survey is completed. The land tax will no doubt be at first the principal source of revenue, and it should be distinctly understood from the first that, as the land becomes more valuable, the tax will be sub-

ject to revision at intervals of years. It will also be necessary to consider what shall be the tenure of Crown land. Seeing that the territory is held under lease for ninety-nine years the question of freehold grants does not arise, and the land should be leased for stated periods, not exceeding the term which I have laid down in the case of the present colony with powers of resumption on fair terms if the public service requires it.

26.—In dealing with the question of what laws of Hongkong should be extended to the new territory I have not made any reference to the administration of the criminal law. In this matter I should wish you to be guided generally by the recommendations made by Mr. Lockhart. I agree with Mr. Lockhart that the existing village organizations should be maintained and utilised, and I approve of the immediate appointment of an itinerant Magistrate as suggested. I shall be glad if you will at once select an officer for provisional appointment in this capacity. An appeal should lie to the itinerant Magistrate from the village tribunals, and from him to the Governor, this latter course being preferable in my opinion to an appeal to the Supreme Court. An Ordinance will be necessary, framed on the lines of the Ceylon Ordinance No. 24 of 1889 to legalise and define the powers of the village and district Council or tribunals.

27.—I have now touched upon what appears to me to be the most important questions for your immediate consideration. You will gather from what I have said that while I differ from some of the conclusions at which Mr. Lockhart has arrived, I nevertheless concur generally in the recommendations which he has made in his report. Although I am unable to entertain the idea of a separate administration of the new territory under a resident Commissioner, I consider it highly desirable that Mr. Lockhart should be generally associated with its administration; and with this object in view, he should for the next six months, at any rate, be relieved as far as possible from the ordinary duties of Colonial Secretary and Registrar General. It will probably be desirable that he should be permanently relieved of the duties of the latter office, but on this subject I will address you later.

28.—Whatever other provisional appointments may be rendered necessary by these arrangements, I must leave for the present in your hands.

29.—I hope that in the foregoing observations I have succeeded in conveying to you a general expression of my views on this important and interesting subject. But there is much that must necessarily be left to yourself, and I feel that I have been unable to do more than give you an outline of the policy which it is desirable that you should pursue. I have, however, every confidence in your ability to carry the undertaking to a successful issue; and I will conclude with an expression of my congratulations to you on finding yourself in the position of the representative of Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of the assumption of jurisdiction over this most important addition to Her Majesty's dominions.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

HON. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART'S REPORT.

Mr. Stewart Lockhart's report on the new territory occupies sixteen pages of the *Gazette*. We make the following extracts from it:—

PRODUCTS.

Rice is the principal article of cultivation and the quality of this product is so highly esteemed that a quantity of it is exported to San Francisco for the use of the Chinese resident there. There is also a large area of land devoted to the growing of sugar cane, indigo, hemp, peanuts, potatoes of different varieties, yam, taro, beans, sesamum, pumpkins, and vegetables of all kinds.

Experiments are now being made to ascertain whether the cotton plant will flourish in the newly-leased area, and there seems to be no reason, as far as soil and climate are concerned, why these experiments should not succeed. If they are successful, the cotton mill which is now being erected in Hongkong would find this a convenient source of supply for at any rate a portion of its raw material.

FRUITS.

The fruits are pameloes, oranges, lungnangs, pears, liches, persimmons, pomgranates, wongp'is and mangoes.

VEGETATION.

The mountain ranges and lower hills are covered with vegetation, and cultivation is found high up on the hill-sides. In some places a crop of rice was growing at an elevation of 1,300 feet, and on the northern slope of the Taimo Shan range tea and pineapple were observed growing at an elevation of 1,500 feet. The range of Taimo Shan, stretching to the west towards Castle Peak Bay, is covered with good grass, which appeared to be such as would suit cattle, horses, and sheep, many thousands of which could find pasturage on the slopes of these hills. At present cattle are used entirely for agricultural purposes. The animals seen were small and well shaped, and generally black or red in colour. Their good condition showed the excellence of the pasturage. In the poorer and rocky soil the hills are covered with bracken and ferns, and in the sheltered ravines with brushwood and scrub jungle. There are no extensive forests, but some of the lower hills are clothed with pine-trees, and round many of the villages are found thick clumps of well-grown trees and groves of bamboo.

POPULATION.

There are no reliable statistics possessed by the Chinese Government of the present population of the San On District. No census appears to have been taken for many years. It has, therefore, been necessary to base an estimate of the population on inquiries made from the inhabitants of the villages and on personal inspection of the villages themselves. With these as guides it is estimated that the population of the new territory, including the Sham Chun and Shatau Kok divisions, and allowing 5,000 for that portion of the Shatau division, which will most probably be included in the new area, amounts in round figures to one hundred thousand (100,000).

The population is contained in six main divisions, inhabiting 423 villages. These villages vary in population from 10 to 5,000 persons.

The eastern portion of the district, being more mountainous and less fertile, is not so thickly populated as the western portion. The Un Long Tung, or the division including the fertile valleys and plains of Pat Heung and Shap Pat Heung, is the most populous, its population, amounting to 23,020, being distributed among 59 villages. The Sheung U Tung or western division, though much larger in area than the Un Long division, contains a population of only 20,870, distributed among no fewer than 182 villages.

The total area of the territory to be leased being 376 square miles, the population is about 266 persons to the square mile. Though by no means at present thickly populated, it is anticipated that when the new territory comes under British occupation its population will rapidly increase.

INDUSTRIES.

The population is chiefly occupied in the cultivation of the soil with the various crops produced. But in addition to agricultural pursuits there are large fisheries, in which many persons are engaged, in the bays surrounding the territory on the east, south, and west, fishing being carried on chiefly by means of stake-nets. The fish are sorted, salted, and sun-dried, and exported to various markets. The trade in salt fish is one of the most important, and employs a large number of persons.

Pearl fisheries exist in Tolo harbour, where pearls of value are said to be sometimes found.

In addition to salt-water fish the rearing of fresh-water fish in ponds for the Hongkong market and elsewhere occupies the attention of the villagers of the Un Long division.

The cultivation of oysters is also carried on to a large extent, especially in Deep Bay.

Lime burning is an important industry, coral and oyster-shells being in the place of limestone. The largest lime-burning works seen were near Castle Peak Bay, where coal obtained from Hongkong was being used as fuel. Lime was also being burnt at Tai-po Hu, Shat'au Kok, Sha Tin, Ts'un Wan, Ping Shan, and other places visited. It is understood that a

great deal of the lime used in Hongkong is imported from the San On district.

The manufacture of bricks and the quarrying of stones enable the inhabitants to obtain building material at a cheap rate.

Salt is manufactured in several places. Salt pans were seen at Shat'au Kok and Castle Peak Bay.

The indigo grown in the district is used for dyeing cloth, both men and women being engaged in the work of dyeing.

Boatbuilding is carried on. A boat-building shed was seen on the shores of Mirs Bay.

A large establishment exists near Ts'un Wan for the manufacture of joss-powder, out of which joss-sticks, used in the worship of idols, are made. The powder is made from fragrant wood, which is pounded into dust by means of water-wheels, six of which were seen at work.

Although there is a large force of water throughout the territory available for water-power, this is the only instance in which we saw water utilised for manufacturing purposes.

Ropes and nets are manufactured out of the hemp which was observed growing in various places.

One village we visited was engaged entirely in the manufacture of pottery, the clay for which is found in the mountain immediately above the village. The villagers are said to have learned the art of manufacturing pottery from an Italian missionary who formerly resided amongst them.

In almost every village is carried on the rearing of pigs, large numbers of which are exported annually.

Pine-trees are grown, and cut down for firewood, which is an important article of export.

Poultry breeding and fruit growing for the Hongkong market form lucrative occupations for many villages.

With the introduction of capital, which is sure to follow when the territory comes under British occupation, and with that feeling of greater security which just government is bound to inspire, the present industries will be greatly developed, and new industries will be created.

RAILWAY.

The construction of a railway between Canton and Kowloon has been mooted for a long time, and some years ago a survey of the country, through which a line might pass, was made on behalf of a syndicate of Chinese. But the scheme appears to have been abandoned, and nothing more was heard of it until quite recently, when it again came under consideration, and is, I understand, at present being discussed.

If a railway be constructed between Canton and Kowloon, there can be no doubt that such a line would greatly aid the development of the new territory, through a portion of which it would pass, and would be of great commercial and political importance, as it would unite more closely with Hongkong the great commercial city of Southern China and the many towns lying between the city of Canton and that colony.

In the event of a main line being constructed to Canton, it would, no doubt, be advisable to establish branch lines, connection with the main line, in that portion of the new territory through which the main line will not pass.

It has also been suggested that, even if the Canton-Kowloon line be not established at once, light railways should be constructed in the new area. They would, no doubt, help to develop it and increase its population by attracting people to it, but roads seem to be the first requisite, and should be attended to as soon as possible.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Detailed information is given under these headings. The revenue is estimated at \$160,000 and the cost of administration at \$125,000. A loan for initial outlays is recommended, but, as will be seen from Mr. Chamberlain's despatch, has not been approved.

BOUNDARY LINE.

The boundary line indicated on the map attached to the Convention is the shortest line from sea to sea that could be found, measuring on the map only eleven (11) miles. Following the river from Deep Bay to Sham Chun and the road from the latter place to Starling Inlet, the actual distance is about thirteen (13) miles.

This boundary line is open to great objection. It cuts in two the rich valley of which Sham Chun is the centre, and, while excluding that

town, divides the villages in the valley hitherto linked together by family ties and common interests, and at present separated, so far as the river extends, by about 100 feet of a tidal river, and onwards from Sham Chun to Starling Inlet by no boundary whatever. All these villages regard Sham Chun as their central and most important market, where they dispose of their goods and make their purchases, and much difficulty and friction would be certain to arise if the villages on one side of the stream or road come under British jurisdiction whilst those on the other remain under Chinese rule.

Another important reason why Sham Chun should not be excluded from the area to be leased is that it is the seat of the Head Council of the local as opposed to the Imperial Government, represented by the district magistrate, who resides at Namtau. This Head Council controls all the village and other tribunals throughout the Tung Lo or Eastern Division of the San On district, which is that portion of the district included in the Convention, and exercises great influence in every village.

Again, it must be remembered that the chief industry of the villages in the valleys is cultivation of rice, for which an ample and constant supply of water is necessary. If the boundary line indicated on the Convention map be followed, endless dispute as to water rights between villages under British and Chinese jurisdiction are certain to ensue; dissatisfaction will be created; and the task of government will be rendered more difficult.

The proposed boundary would also render smuggling an easy matter, which, in view of the pledge given to China, ought to be avoided.

The disadvantages of having a Chinese town just outside British territory have been experienced in the case of Kowloon, which for years has been a source of never-ceasing trouble and constant friction between the Governments of Hongkong and China. History will certainly repeat itself if Sham Chun be allowed to remain in Chinese territory.

In the opinion of all those acquainted with the country, whether belonging to the naval, military, or civil services, it is essential, in the interests of good Government, and in order to maintain friendly relations with China, that the town of Sham Chun should be included in the lease.

The boundary between two countries which leads to least friction is either a broad and deep river or the ridges of hills forming the watersheds of different valleys. In the San On district there is no broad river such as would form a suitable boundary. But there are ridges of hills which could be utilised for that purpose.

This proposed line, which includes the important town of Sham Chun and the land to north and east of Mirs Bay and to the west of Deep Bay, forms a good, natural boundary, running along the crest of the hills, is easy of defence, and would help to check smuggling. It renders unnecessary the separation of villages hitherto united, removes all danger of disputes about water rights and obviates any interferences with the present system of local self-government, on the support of which the success of British administration in the new territory must to a great extent depend.

PREVENTION OF SMUGGLING.

The question of smuggling from Hongkong is one which has given more trouble than almost any other ever since the foundation of the colony.

The whole difficulty lies in the geographical position of the colony of Hongkong, which is so situated that smuggling into China may be checked but can never be altogether prevented. It is obvious that the extension of the colony will not decrease the facilities for smuggling, especially if a mere stream instead of a well-defined range of hills is selected as a boundary.

Opium has always been the chief article smuggled. To prevent the smuggling of it, special legislation has been introduced by the Government of Hongkong.

If it is considered desirable, in view of the pledge given by Great Britain to China to prevent, so far as possible, smuggling, to still further control the export of opium from Hongkong, I am of opinion that this can be best effected by a bonding system.

All opium, on its arrival at Hongkong from India, should be bonded, and no opium should be allowed to be removed from bond except under proper guarantees as to its destination, or shipped, without the Harbour Master being furnished with a copy of the bill of lading.

The Customs of China should be supplied with regular returns of all shipments.

The opium farmer of Hongkong should be made to account clearly for every chest of raw opium supplied to him, and should not be allowed to handle more raw opium than is necessary to meet the opium-smoking requirements of Hongkong and of the new territory, and the demands of the prepared opium export trade to Australia, America, and elsewhere.

These precautionary measures are sure to decrease the revenue of Hongkong. If they are adopted, the Government of China should not hesitate either to lease the whole of the San On district or to adopt that boundary line which is the best in the interests of all parties concerned.

KOWLOON CITY.

The city of Kowloon is called in Chinese *Kau Lung Shing*. The term *Shing* is the ordinary one used for a city by the Chinese. It originally seems to have signified a rampart, surrounding a space; but it is now always applied to a city surrounding by a wall or rampart, as all Chinese cities are. The Convention refers to the retention of jurisdiction "within the city of Kowloon," thus clearly showing that the walled city is meant.

Kowloon is situated about a quarter of a mile from the sea shore. It is enclosed by a stone wall built in 1847, forming as nearly as possible a parallelogram, measuring 700 feet by 400 feet, and enclosing an area of 6½ acres. The wall is built of granite ashlar facing, is 15 feet in width at the top, and averages in height 13 feet. The wall has six watch towers, at present occupied as family dwellings, and two gateways, with doors made of wood and lined with iron sheeting. The parapet wall is built of granite, and has 119 embrasures. It is approached by four flights of stone steps.

According to a return furnished by the Deputy Magistrate, the total population of Kowloon city is 744; the garrison amounts to 544; the civil population to 200. The officials stationed within the city are, with the exception of one civil officer, a Deputy Magistrate, military officers, the head of whom is the Colonel Commanding. This officer is the chief military officer in the district of San On; is immediately subordinate to the *Ti Tu*, or General in Command of all the land forces in the province of Kwong-tung. The Colonel's jurisdiction is purely a military one, extending over the whole district of San On and the islands adjacent thereto. His original headquarters were at *Taipang* and his official designation is still *Taipang Hip*, or Colonel stationed at *Taipang*, at which place he has a yamen, or official quarters. The reason for his having taken up a residence within the city of Kowloon was to place him in closer relations with the Colony of Hongkong.

As the garrison now under the command of the Colonel is maintained for the defence of the district of San On and the adjoining islands, and as the larger portion of that district and most of the islands are to be leased by the British Government, most of the soldiers now supposed to exist under the Colonel's command will be disbanded or transferred elsewhere, whilst the services of those retained will be required not within, but outside, the territory referred to in the Convention. The residence, therefore, of the Colonel Commanding and of his troops within the city of Kowloon is entirely unnecessary. But even if it were necessary, the military requirements for the defence of Hongkong must surely render it impossible to allow the retention, in the very heart of the territory, of a garrison of soldiers belonging to a foreign power, however friendly that power may be.

The only civil officer resident within the city is a Deputy Magistrate. He is appointed not to control the 200 civilians resident within the city, who are really subject to the military, but to exercise a somewhat extensive jurisdiction outside the city, throughout a large portion of the new area. When that area has been taken over, there appears to be no reason why this

office of Deputy Magistrate should continue to exist, as the jurisdiction now exercised by him will be merged in the administration of the territory under British rule.

The civil population within the city of Kowloon, amounting to 200, lives there simply because it is dependent on the military. It does not engage in trade, there being no shops of any kind within the city. If the military remove from the city, the civil population is sure to follow, so there will be no one remaining over whom a Chinese officer could exercise jurisdiction.

In any case it appears to be entirely inconsistent with the military requirements for the defence of Hongkong to allow a garrison town like Kowloon to be occupied permanently by Chinese military officers and troops. If that view be accepted, there seems to be nothing to justify the retention of Chinese jurisdiction in any shape or form within the city, for without the garrison the population will be reduced to nothing.

Should any civilians remain after the removal of the military, they might be allowed to establish a native tribunal presided over by the elders and gentry, but subject, of course, in the same way as the other native tribunals throughout the territory, to the control of the travelling magistrate, and possessing the right of appeal to the Council of the Tung, and finally to the Commissioner.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, it may, I trust, be gathered from the account of the new territory that it will form a valuable extension of Hongkong. It is favourably situated, has good harbours with safe anchorages, possesses a rich soil, and is inhabited by an industrious, hardy, and frugal race. Under Chinese rule enterprise has been at a discount, and progress has been at a standstill for centuries. The San On district of today must be much the same as it was four or five hundred years ago. But when British rule is established, and the people realise that justice prevails, that they are allowed to pursue their avocations in peace and freedom from illicit extortions, and that there is no unnecessary interference with their manners and customs, the spirit of enterprise will soon manifest itself, capitalists will be attracted to a region where their capital is not liable to official "squeezes," the resources of the country will be developed, and its prosperity will continue to increase.

THE HARBOURS IN MIRS BAY.

BY COMMANDER DE HORSEY, R.N.

1.—Starling Inlet.—Good anchorage in 4 fms. Head of bay too shallow for purposes of navigation. If road be brought down to either side of bay on parallel 114 degrees 14' 30" E. ships drawing 21 feet of water could lie alongside a short pier.

2.—Crooked Harbour.—3.—Double Haven.—Good protected anchorages in 6 to 7 fms. Useful only for fishing requirements.

4.—Anchorage under Pingchau Island.—Good anchorage in 7 fms., but much taken up with fishing stakes and unimportant for line of communication.

5.—Plover Cove.—Very good anchorage in all weathers in 4½ fms., but out of trade route.

6.—Tolo Harbour.—Like Starling Inlet, too shallow at head of bay for purposes of navigation, although there is a boat channel, which, if marked out, will take small junks up to town. Anchorage on 4 fms. line. Suitable for shipping; whichever side of bay road is made it should be brought out on parallel 114 degs. 11' 45" E., in order to allow of vessels lying alongside a pier in 21 feet.

7.—Tide Cove.—Communication by small junks or light launches at high water to top of bay. Sampan at low. Anchorage in 3½ fms. Protected in all winds. Distance from head of bay 3 miles. Important as being the closest by land to Kowloon.

8.—Long Harbour.—Good anchorage in 7 to 8 fms. More suitable for a military than a mercantile port.

9.—Port Shelter.—Good anchorage for any size of ships. Chiefly useful as being deep close to shore, and divided from Tseung Kwan O by a small neck of land ½ mile wide.

10.—Rocky Harbour.—Unimportant, being out of line of communication.

THE GEOLOGY.

BY MR. ORMSBY.

The geological formation of this territory is simple, granitic, trappean, and metamorphic rocks largely predominating, the only stratified rocks which are found belonging to the hypozoic period. There are in places evidences of volcanic action, but of a very remote period, while the granitic and trappean rocks are very prominent everywhere. The hills facing Hongkong are chiefly of granitic, of which many varieties occur, from a fine close-grained felspathic white rock and a pink-coloured granite like that of Aberdeen, to a very coarse porphyritic granite. Kaolin probably exists, but I did not come on any defined beds of it, though told that it was to be found near the west point of Castle Peak Bay. Syenite is common and of very good quality, a dark, highly crystalline variety, in many cases the large distinct crystals of hornblende being well shown.

The bold and rocky east coast shows some very characteristic cliffs of columnar basalt, and blocks of this, an almost black and highly crystalline rock, are largely used for bridging streams inland.

Further inland other trap rocks appear, while some of the islands in Mirs Bay show very distinctly the terraced and step-like appearance of these formations. The more compact and crystalline varieties seem to predominate, though trap tuffs and claystone porphyries are not absent. Specimens of basalts, greenstones, and felspar porphyries were numerous.

It is extremely difficult in such a country as I have described, where the varieties of trap rocks are so numerous and so mixed up with rocks of the granite system, to say what other rocks may not exist. One thing is certain, there is everywhere an abundance of the best building material, and for road macadamizing nothing could surpass the hard basalts.

In one or two places I came on distinctly stratified rocks, of a hard, crystalline, close-grained variety, dark grey or bluish grey in colour, which I would call syenitic gneiss.

Pure quartz rock is uncommon, though in places distinct out-crops of quartzite were to be seen. I saw no mica schists, and except in the pure granites mica is not to be seen. Talc also is absent, but hornblende appears everywhere, and I should say chlorite schists, hornblende schists and actynolite schists are fairly common.

I saw no limestone, all lime used in buildings being obtained from the burning of coral or oyster shells.

The lower hills between the mountain ranges are of laterite, rounded or conical in shape, and well covered with vegetation, combining to form the extremely picturesque scenery usually associated with such formations. The richly-cultivated valleys lying between, formed by the denudation of the surrounding mountains, seem in most cases to have a few feet of good soil overlying laterite; some excavations, as in wells, showed this very distinctly. The laterite is what would be called a coarse cabook in Ceylon, fit for cutting out in blocks for building purposes. This is extremely like the disintegrated granite of Hongkong, but contains more silicate of alumina and oxide of iron, the latter showing in large nodules.

Some excellent pottery clay exists on the slopes of Taimo Shan, of which we saw specimens in the village of Un-iu, of a light brown colour and extremely fine texture. Brick clay is found in all the valleys, and is used in the form of large sun-dried bricks in many of the village houses and walls.

Possibly beds of primary limestone will be found, but the lime obtained by the burning of coral or shells is as a rule better for building purposes, so the absence of rock limestone, if such turns out to be the case, does not matter. A lead mine was worked for some years on the side of Taimo Shan, but the working discontinued for some reason about six years ago. Galena was also found near Kowloon, and on the north side of Lantau, and elsewhere. These workings should be examined by a mining expert, and the richness of the ore ascertained. The natives also speak of alluvial tin being found. Silver and lead were worked on the south of the island of Lantau within recent years, but without success financially, possibly

due rather to Chinese official interference and bad management than to the absence of a paying richness in the ore. Expensive buildings were erected on the sea-shore and machinery said to have cost 100,000 dollars imported and erected. Even when the speculation collapsed, the plant was valued at \$30,000, all of which is said to have been abandoned. Only the foundations and cement floors of some of the buildings remain, and the brick chimney shaft of the smelting works.

I should say that on the Taimo Shan range gneiss syenite and trap rocks predominate. Massive boulders of gneiss of a bluish grey or greenish colour are scattered over the mountain side and in the ravines. On the slopes in which the best pasturage is found there is a stiff yellow clay, with veins of quartz gravel.

Lantau Island is chiefly granite on the south face and trap rocks on the north, the latter being consequently much better covered with vegetation and trees. The smaller islands, such as Cheung-chau, Ping-chau, and Lamma seem to be almost entirely granite.

It will be understood that as only 12 days in all were spent in the exploration of the mainland and islands, no accurate or close geological survey was possible; the predominating rocks were judged as much from the stone used in the paved footpaths, stream crossings, sea walls, and houses, as from the bed rocks on the hill sides, usually difficult of access. This geological description of the country is therefore of a very sketchy and imperfect character, and a closer and more careful examination by a professional geologist, or an expert in mineralogy, will doubtless bring to light much that has escaped my observation.

PROPOSED NEW ROADS.

BY MR. ORMSBY.

One of the first and most pressing needs is a good cart road on an easy trace from the shores of Mirs Bay, where it approaches nearest to Kowloon city, over to British Kowloon. Such a road can readily be made as a continuation of the road already constructed on the west side of the peninsula to Mong-kok-tsui. The trace would pass through Tai-kok-tsui and along the sea coast past Lai-chi-kok, Keo-pak-sung, &c., rising by an easy gradient until it passed round the end of the southerly mountain range, and entered the valley leading down towards Sha-tin Inlet in Mirs Bay. Leaving Sha-tin on the right, the trace would pass the villages of Tai-Wai, Cheung-Lung, Fotan, and keeping up by Kau-to, drop again to the important centre of Taipo Hu market town at the head of Tolo harbour. From Taipo Hu the road should follow the existing paths up the valley to the north-west to Sham Chun. The line I have indicated only scales 22 miles on the map, and I am of opinion that a good carriage road trace would turn out to be not more than 25 or 26 miles. I put this road first, as I consider it far and away the most important; it would pass through the centre of the territory, and not only would afford rapid and easy access to Hongkong markets for villagers with produce to dispose of, but would render the administration of the new territory simple. Besides this there is daily communication by junks from different points on Mirs Bay with Taipo Hu and Sha-tin.

Next in importance I would put a road from Sham Chun to Sha-tin Kok or Starling Inlet. This road would be about 10 miles long and on very easy gradients, the greatest elevation between these two towns being only 80 feet above sea level.

The Des Vaux road on the east side of British Kowloon through Hung-Hom should be carried on to Kowloon city, and generally following the existing footpath through a low pass in the chain of hills, be continued on to the important town of Sai-Kung on the shores of Port Shelter. This road should eventually be continued across the dividing range to the shore of Tolo Harbour in Mirs Bay.

The roads so far described should in my opinion be what I would designate as second-class carriage roads, 12 feet wide, all rivers and streams permanently bridged with stone or iron structures, stone cross drains, and surfaced with the best gravel or disintegrated rock obtainable locally, all soft ground having a bottoming of large stones; 1 in 18 should be the steepest gradients permitted. On such roads Chinese ponies in light two-wheeled carriages could

readily accomplish eight miles an hour, bringing Sham Chun within a three hours' drive of Kowloon. I roughly estimate the cost of such roads at \$10,000 a mile, but in the absence of surveys and sections this must be considered rather of a guess.

Besides these, some good bridge roads should be constructed, the most important being one leaving the first main road above described where it enters the valley leading to Sha-tin, skirting the hills close above Tsun-wan and following the telegraph line path through one of the gaps on Taimo Shan down into the Pat Heung Valley, and so on to Unlong Hu and Pingshan by Kamtin Hu. A road joining Unlong Hu with Sham Chun would also be desirable. Another useful road would be one connecting Pat Heung Valley with Taipo Hu, through the Lamtsun valley, a low ridge of hills between the two making this a simple matter. These bridge roads should be six feet wide, with stone culverts over the smaller streams, and paved fords over the larger ones, to save expense in bridging. The gradients should be limited to 1 in 10, but carriage road gradients adopted if possible, with a view to future developments. The natural surface might be left. I estimate that such roads should not cost more than \$2,000 a mile.

OUTRAGE ON A BRITISH OFFICER AT MACAO.

HE NEGLECTS TO DOFF HIS HAT TO A RELIGIOUS PROCESSION AND IS ASSAULTED AND ARRESTED.

RELEASED ON INTERVENTION OF THE CONSUL.

On Monday afternoon, during a religious procession at Macao, Colonel Brown, D.S.O., the Military Attaché to the British Legation at Peking, was subjected to a disgraceful outrage. Colonel Brown was on a visit to the Settlement with a party of ladies, and while on his way from the steamer to the Bon Vista Hotel, a religious procession was encountered. The procession, it may be mentioned was not one of the great processions officially recognised by the Government, but what is known as the Senhora Remedios Procession, Senhora Remedios having won a prize in the Manila lottery some years ago and devoted part of the money to an endowment for an annual procession in connection with one of the churches. Religious banners are carried, but not, we understand, the Host or crucifix. Meeting the procession, Colonel Brown stood to see it pass, when his hat was rudely knocked off. Thinking it was an accident Colonel Brown replaced his hat, when it was again knocked off with violence, and a party of soldiers, acting under the orders of Lieut. Galhardo, nephew and A.D.C. to H.E. the Governor of Macao, arrested him, and marched him off to the church enclosure. On gathering that it was his neglect to uncover that was objected to, Colonel Brown was quite ready to keep his hat off. Captain Clarke, of the steamer *Heungshan*, who witnessed the occurrence from some little distance, came up and tried to explain in Portuguese that the gentleman could not understand what was required of him by being assaulted in such a manner, and also expressed Colonel Brown's regret that he had neglected to take off his hat. Captain Clarke suggested that the arrest was quite unnecessary and unjustifiable, but all to no purpose; the Portuguese officer was in a state of uncontrollable excitement, and the arrest was carried out. In the meantime the ladies had gone on to report the matter to the Vice-Consul. Captain Clarke continued his representations to the A.D.C., stating Colonel Brown's official position, and that he was suffering from illness, whereupon he was allowed to walk in company with the A.D.C. to the Consulate. Some conversation here took place, and Colonel Brown was ultimately allowed to proceed to his hotel. The matter is now in the hands of the Consul, and no doubt an apology will in due course be tendered to Colonel Brown, if it has not been tendered already, for Governor Galhardo, we must assume, would not approve of the rash conduct of his A.D.C. We understand the matter has been reported to Sir Claude MacDonald. Colonel Brown is just

recovering from a severe illness having been in hospital for some time at Shanghai.

We have since received an account of the affair from Mr. A. G. Romano, Consul-General for Portugal, which represents that Colonel Brown was not arrested nor subjected to any indignity beyond his hat being knocked off by a civilian after he had been vainly requested to remove it. Lieut. Galhardo asked him for his name, and upon his declining to give it requested him to go with him to the Consulate.

A PREVIOUS CASE.

A somewhat similar case occurred at Macao in 1849.

refusing to take it off when requested.

Dr. Dennys in his "Treaty Ports" gives the following account of the affair:—

"The year 1849 was also made memorable through the imprisonment of a British subject who had made an offensive display of his Protestantism by refusing to take off his hat on the passage of the Host through one of the streets, and his forcible release, accompanied by the killing of a Portuguese sentry, by a boat's crew landed from H. M. S. *Dido*, Captain Keppel. This act was justified on the ground of Macao being Chinese territory; but in order to prevent a recurrence of similar proceedings the British Government shortly afterwards recognized the supreme jurisdiction of the Portuguese law-courts in the settlement."

Dr. Eitel's account, in his "History of Hong-kong," is as follows:—

"Throughout the six years of his tenure of office, Sir G. Bonham maintained friendly relations with the successive Governors of Macao, J. M. F. d'Amiral (until August 22, 1849), P. A. da Cunha (since May 27, 1850), S. Cardozo (since January 21, 1851), and T. F. Guimaraes (since November 18, 1851). Nor were these amicable relations interrupted even by that plucky but hasty action of the Senior British Naval Officer, Captain H. Keppel, who (June 7, 1849) landed at Macao, with Captain Troubridge and 115 men of H. M. S. *Macedon*, and rescued from the Portuguese gaol-guard a British prisoner by an act of force which unfortunately involved the death of one Portuguese soldier and the wounding of two others. The prisoner was Mr. J. Summers, preceptor of St. Paul's College, who had been lodged, with unreasonable harshness, in the common jail at Macao for not taking off his hat at the passing of the *Corpus Christi* procession. When Captain Keppel applied for the prisoner's immediate rendition, Governor Amiral curtly refused it because the gallant Captain declined to ask for it as a personal favour. Captain Keppel fancied that his forcible interference would be held justifiable on the ground of the above-mentioned Hong-kong Ordinance, which included Macao in the dominions of the Emperor of China. As Governor Bonham, however, took a different view of the case, and induced the British Admiralty to grant substantial compensation for the injuries inflicted, the relations between the Governors of the two Colonies continued unimpaired."

THE WAR IN THE PHILIPPINES.

THE FIGHTING OF 25TH AND 26TH MARCH.

We have been favoured by an English doctor who accompanied the American troops with the following description of the fighting near Manila on the 25th and 26th March. The description is accompanied by a very clear plan showing the various positions, but this we regret our local resources do not enable us to reproduce:—

On Saturday and Sunday, the 25th and 26th March, was witnessed perhaps the smartest piece of engagement yet incurred in this Filipino-American campaign, the Americans succeeding in advancing their line some seven to eight miles further north.

The advance was made by that section of the line on the extreme west extending from Malabon bridge to Caloocan and thence to San Francisco del Monte. Generals Wheaton and MacArthur were in command.

This particular advance has been expected daily for the last fortnight, but latterly, owing

to the freedom with which the Manila press has been wont to discuss and criticise the tactics of the campaign, the generals have kept their plan of movements very close. It is a fact that any newspaper printed in Manila manages to find its way into the hands of the insurgents within 24 hours, to the (P) great advantage of the latter.

The day before this advance was made I happened to be in San Pedro Macate taking photographs of the American and Filipino trenches. Whilst here I received a message from Surgeon Major Shields, the brigade surgeon, to the effect that he had just received a communication from General Wheaton, asking him to at once go over to Caloocan as his acting A.D.C., the advance from this town having been arranged to start at daybreak the following day. The Major accepted, and kindly extended the invitation to me. Being desirous of obtaining photographs of the field of action and of gaining all possible experience in military surgery, I gladly accepted the invitation.

We (Major Shields, his orderly, the American artist, Mr. Peters, and myself) left San Pedro Macate at 5 p.m. and arrived at Manila just in time to buy a two days' supply of food before the shops closed, which they have to do about 6.15 p.m. on account of the order that no person is allowed out of doors after 7 p.m. without a pass from the authorities.

Many preparations had to be made, and it was midnight before we were able to leave Manila. Having been halted some 20 to 30 times on the road and made to show our passes, we ultimately arrived at Caloocan at 1 a.m. Saturday morning. Here we found General Wheaton and his staff encamped.

Throwing a mackintosh on the ground and ourselves upon the former, we lay down and invited sleep, but what with the mosquitoes, the chattering of the *rekko*, the occasional whiz and thud of a bullet, and the more frequent crack of the rifle, the stern challenge of the American sentry and the taunting jeers of the Filipinos in the distance, sleep was not forthcoming, and I soon gave up all idea of such, got up, and discarding my English costume, proceeded to robe myself in the uniform of an American private, considerably provided for me by the Major. This done I strolled along the American line of trenches. The situation to me, at this time of the night, was very novel and impressive. Here was a group of soldiers deep in slumber, lat with one hand on their rifles ready at the awakening bugle-call to jump to their feet and fight for their stars and stripes; there was a sentry on his knees taking a pot shot through 500 yards of nocturnal blackness at a rebel acting in a similar capacity to himself, with the all important difference that he (the rebel sentry) had to stick to his post under the eagle eye of the searchlight from the American man-of-war, U.S. *Helena*, lying outside Malabon.

At 4 a.m. the still night air was disturbed by the clear bugle-notes of the "I can't wake 'em up—I can't wake 'em up" of the reveille. The American line of trenches, a moment ago still and calm in sleep, was now bristling with animation, looking in the gloom—for the moon had sunk, and there was still an hour to dawn—like some leviathan night serpent quivering with suppressed excitement. The whistle of the Filipino buglers, the shouts of their outposts, and the ascent of several rockets, which is the Filipino method of signalling, proclaimed the fact that the foe was equally wide awake and busy.

General Wheaton and his staff now appeared and took up their position on the right of the brigade. By 5.15 a.m. it was comparatively light; the rebel trenches could plainly be seen across the open, and several of the insurgents excitedly running about from fort to fort; they had evidently already scented mischief in the air. The insurgents were mostly arrayed in white or pale blue uniform—but here and there was one in crimson red, this being the uniform of Aguinaldo's own regiment, the crack rebel regiment, every member of which is a sharpshooter. Not a shot had been exchanged by the two lines for some time. The Americans had unconsciously lowered their voices to a whisper, and a deathly silence prevailed. Suddenly at a prearranged signal there was an angry roar from three of the sand-bag batteries, the artillery of which belched forth their shell

and shrapnel, ploughing up the earth around the insurgent trenches. Almost simultaneously volley after volley of musketry was poured out from along the whole line of American trenches. The rebels answered with a derisive yell and a perfect hail of bullets, and I was glad to obtain the shelter of the nearest trench. Most of the missiles passed high, but several grazed the top of the trench we were in, some even falling into it. One of the soldiers in the trench I was in had a narrow escape; a strap passing over his left shoulder was cut in two by a bullet, he escaping with a mere skin scratch. For fully five minutes this heavy firing continued from the trenches, then it abated somewhat, and the men on the extreme right of Wheaton's brigade, taking advantage of the temporary lull in the leaden storm, vaulted their trenches, doubled 150 yards into the open, and then dropped into a supine position, concealing themselves in the long grass. This movement had the effect of concentrating the insurgent fire upon the right of the line; the remainder of the line east of the railway, that is up to the sandbag battery, taking advantage of this diversion in the rebel fire, executed a similar movement, the recently-vacated trenches being almost immediately filled up by men from the reserve line. For the next fifteen minutes the advance line in the open kept up a heavy fire upon the rebel trenches; they then again advanced 100 yards dropping as before. All this time the Artillery kept clearing the ground in front of them with shrapnel, but as they neared the rebel trenches firing from the batteries was discontinued. Now was the critical time; the Americans were within 150 yards of the insurgent trenches; suddenly they rose from the grass and, with a loud cheer, rushed the trenches, scattering the rebels in all directions, most of them flying to the woods on the north of their line, some running west along their own line of trenches towards Malabon. In this sort of very little life was lost on either side; five Filipino prisoners were captured, including a little rebel warrior scarcely 14 years old.

The troops on the north of the rebel trenches now began to advance in a westerly direction, driving the rebels along their own line of trenches towards Malabon.

At first the troops were much troubled by a cross fire from the insurgents in the woods on the north of the rebel trenches. This was, however, ultimately silenced by the batteries exploding shell over the woods, after which the cavalry entered the woods on the extreme right and rode through them in a westerly direction, thoroughly clearing them of any stragglers. By 10 a.m. the troops on the north of the rebel trenches were nearing the Bencanga river. It must be remembered that the latter were still in connection with the western end of the American trenches by a semi-circular line of men extending across the open, and it will thus be seen that the American forces now consisted of a U-shaped line, of which the north limb was made up of those men on the north of the rebel trenches, the southern limb by those men who had as yet never left their trenches and were situated between Malabon bridge and the Dagupan railway; the curved part of the line by those men in the open, between the two lines of trenches. General Wheaton's strategical object was thus to afford no means of escape to the rebels enveloped in the concavity of this line of troops and capture them along the edge of the Bencanga river. In this, however, he was only partially successful, for the rebels rushed into the river in hundreds swimming across to Malabon, most of them escaping, but several getting captured, drowned, or killed. The insurgents in Malabon, seeing the turn in the state of affairs, now came down to the western edge of the Bencanga river in full force, concealing themselves in the thick bush along the banks of the water and keeping up a heavy fire across the latter upon the Americans. Again the mortar and two six-pounders at A and a Hotchkiss at B were brought into play, compelling the rebels to beat a hasty retreat into Jasse Island, mapping out their retreat by a long line of burning buildings. The whole of that portion of the rebel trenches extending from the Bencanga river to near San Francisco del Monte was now in the hands of the Americans. At 2 p.m. the latter again formed up as a long line, running from west to east, about 200 yards to the north

of the first line of rebel trenches. General Wheaton and his staff now took up their position at the centre of this line and advanced along the railway to a point situated on the northern aspect of the woods, called Wheaton's hole, the latter being a natural gully just to the east of the railroad, well protected and concealed from all surrounding parts. From the contiguous portion of the railroad a splendid view of the country beyond could be obtained. General Wheaton lost no time in putting to good use this new stretch of captured railroad, and it was not long before two six pounders were brought on the scene, together with a trainload of ammunition, food supplies, telegraphic wires, distilled water, etc.

The Engineers were soon busily at work setting up telegraphic communication between here and Calococan Church. The latter was the head-quarters of yesterday. Wheaton's hole was to be the head-quarters of to-day.

In the meantime the western and eastern parts of the line were steadily advancing through the woods. The former met with but little opposition and took up their station on the west of Wheaton's hole, lining up along the southern banks of the Binoanga river. The latter, however, met with some severe fighting around a fort situated to the north of the woods. This fort they ultimately captured with but few casualties and without any loss of life on their side, though one rebel was killed and one mortally wounded. It was at this spot that an incident occurred which I think worthy of recording, in that it speaks well for the straightforwardness of the insurgents. In the middle of the fight a Filipino fell between the two foes and was observed writhing in agony in the centre of the field. Tying a piece of bandage to a stick and waving it in the air, Dr. Shields and his assistant went up to the wounded man and carried him back to a place of shelter, where his wounds were attended to, not a shot being fired by the rebels until the white bandage was lowered. The wounded man had been shot through the liver and gall bladder, and large quantities of bile and blood were escaping. But little could be done for him beyond the relief of pain, and he rapidly succumbed to his injuries.

Having captured the first fort, marked F. 1 on the map, this section of the line again advanced till they were suddenly arrested by a heavy fire from a fort marked F. 2, about 200 yards away and on the opposite bank of a river, the Taliha-o Tansa river. The Americans, after a brief stand, were compelled to retreat and seek cover, from which a somewhat realtered fire was directed at the fort; however, it soon became manifest that the fort was impregnable from the front, so it was decided to simulate further retreat, then make a detour, ford the river half a mile higher up, and come up final a on the rear flank of the fort and endeavour to take it from that position. In this the Americans had everything in their favour; for to the north of the fort was some thick cover situated on an elevated piece of ground.

This was accordingly done, the river forded at a spot marked (2) on the map, the men being drawn up on the northern side of the hillock (3) from the top of which the rebels could plainly be seen lying in their trenches and expectantly awaiting an attack from the front, quite innocent of their circumvention. At the first volley from the Americans, they rose as one man and, taking in at a glance the utter hopelessness of the situation, fled, some along the banks of the river, others jumping into the river and swimming down it, but eight of their number remaining dead in the field. Having captured the fort and it now being 5 p.m. it was decided to camp here for the night. The position of the American line from now till dawn next day, is shown by the dotted line to the south of the Binoanga river, crossing Wheaton's hole and extending along the northern bank of the Taliha-o Tansa river as far as the fort just captured (F. 2), around which both banks of the river were in the hands of the Americans. At Wheaton's hole the Artillery were at work shelling some very powerful forts on the northern banks of the Taliha-o river. These forts marked F. 4, F. 5, and F. 6, were about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile distant; the largest (F. 6) was to the left of the railway, another (F. 4) was on the right of the railway

at the edge of the river, the third and smallest (F. 5), consisting of a large pile of earthworks thrown up on the railway itself, on our (i.e. the southern) side of the river. Upon the top of this latter the rebels had erected some dummy men which, to the naked eye, looked very real. They were evidently living in the hope that the Americans would shell the central fort and destroy the railway bridge. General Wheaton spent the remainder of Saturday afternoon shelling the two forts F. 4 and F. 6, leaving F. 5 severely alone, and also Malinta church and village, situated on the top of a hill beyond the forts, about 2 miles distant. No compunction was felt in shelling the church, it being already in ruins. The answering rebel fire came chiefly from the forts on either side of the railway and from the surrounding woods. Scarcely a shot was fired from the church, the significance of which fact will be seen later.

Darkness now coming on, all firing ceased, and we prepared to settle down for the night. The plan of campaign for the morrow was as follows: The forts F. 4, F. 5, and F. 6 were to be taken in a similar manner to that adopted in capturing F. 2, that is, by a flank movement. an appearance of attempting to take them from the front would be kept up by shelling them from Wheaton's hole. Moreover, it was hoped that the effect of shelling the forts would be to make the rebels stick to them and prevent them flying up the hill to the church and village.

Having already a considerable number of men on the opposite bank of the Taliha-o river on the east of the line, and knowing the nature of the river at this spot, General Wheaton decided to make the flank movement on this side, the country to the west of the three forts, being low-lying, open, and exposed, was not at all adapted for such a movement.

The first sight that greeted our eyes at dawn was an enormous column of smoke rising up from the town of Malabon, from all the principal buildings of which huge tongues of flame were leaping, their size being much exaggerated by their inverted reflection in the water separating the town from the mainland. What a sight for Sunday morning!

We had just finished our breakfast when an amusing incident occurred. I was talking at the time to Professor Shermann, President of the Cornhill University, and we were watching the weird manner in which the leaves of the sensitive plant opened and closed themselves, when there was a yell accompanied by the crack of a rifle and the whistle of a bullet. At the same instant one of the soldiers came running down the decline at the rate of knots, as the Americans say. On asking him the cause of this unseemly exhibition of energy, he held up his left hand, the left-ring finger of which had been pierced by a bullet, leaving a circular opening through the first phalanx as neat and complete as though bored by an augur. After being dressed he wanted to go on fighting, and was very annoyed because I would not allow him to. "Taint so much the durned port-hole through me finger," he said, "as gets me on the raw, it's the losin' of all the—fun."

The two six-pounders had already commenced shelling the forts, from behind which columns of smoke might be seen issuing, thought by the Americans to be fires used for culinary purposes. The return fire came from the various woods around, and, as the rebels were using smokeless powder, it was very hard at the distance we then were to ascertain with anything like exactness their position. One thing only was certain, and it rather puzzled us—the rebels behind the forts and in the church were not firing back, the explanation generally accepted being that owing to the shelling of yesterday the church was deserted, and that the shrapnel now being poured into the forts was making it too hot for the insurgents to expose themselves in order to fire back.

Col. Egbert, with the 22nd and 3rd, now started from Wheaton's hole in an easterly direction. I accompanied these regiments. We marched Indian-file fashion until the Taliha-o Tansa river was reached. We forded the river opposite fort 2; it is not deep at this spot, barely five feet. Major Shields led the way, he having crossed it at this spot before. Col. Egbert followed; I was just behind the latter and remember seeing the water rising till it com-

pletely hid his small goatee beard and even the point of his chin. I mention this little incident as within a short time from now this officer was shot. Having got all the troops across, and being reinforced by those men who had crossed the river yesterday evening, we proceeded in a north, westerly direction very slowly and cautiously, not knowing the instant we might receive a volley from the bush. The ground was very undulating; studded with bush and intersected by creeks, and the Colonel had the greatest difficulty in keeping his line straight and unbroken. The monotonous boom of the 6-pounders at Wheaton's hole now ceased; we were evidently nearing the forts and had been seen by Wheaton's party at the base. As we were crossing the last creek, and a filthy black muddy thing it was too, the soldier in front of me stumbled and fell into the water. The next instant my foot impinged against something soft. Putting my hand down into the water, I hauled up what proved to be the body of a dead Filipino. Two bullets had pierced his brain, for I counted four bullet holes in his skull—a shrapnel shell had probably exploded near him. He could only have been dead a few minutes for decomposition sets in so rapidly in this hot weather, owing to the enormous quantities of putrefactive gasses generated. Twenty yards lower down was a bamboo raft that had been used for conveying ammunition, etc., up to their various forts and blockhouses. Probably he had been shot whilst on the raft, and one of the soldiers could feel his rifle in the mud beneath, but we had no time then to get it up. I made an inward resolution, however, to return another day and capture it.

We now came upon an elevated piece of ground covered with bamboo and brushwood, beyond which we knew were the three forts. A halt was ordered and scouts sent ahead; the latter, however, quickly returned to say that the forts were apparently empty, and on getting to the top of the hill we found this to be only too true; not a Filipino was to be seen, dead or alive. The rebels had anticipated this flank movement and vanished in the night. Moreover, to give the forts a semblance of life, they had, just before dawn, lit fires in them. We had to confess to having been thoroughly taken in, "struck all of a heap like," as one of the soldiers said. However, another stretch of railroad was in the hands of the Americans, and the train was already on the move, bringing down with it General Wheaton and his staff, whom we had left at Wheaton's hole whilst making the detour. The lower or western end of the line was now fording the river below the railway bridge. There used to be a bridge here, but the rebels had blown up the greater part of it. Scouts were now sent along the railway line as far as the bridge (B) over the railway leading to Malinta village; but they returned, having seen nothing of the enemy. It was therefore concluded that the church and village had been vacated, and an order was given to advance towards the latter. We were now upon high-lying ground at K. Malinta village was also upon a raised piece of ground half a mile distant; separating us was an open valley. We had advanced some 70 yards and were well into the open, about 200 men being fully exposed, when suddenly and without the least warning a tremendous volley was fired at us from the church and village. Col. Egbert immediately doubled his men back to the cover, but not before some fourteen were badly wounded and three killed. Col. Egbert was shot through the back, there being just time to get him upon a stretcher and convey him to a place of shelter before he succumbed. It was very sad to see this gallant officer. Only a few minutes before he had offered me a drink of water from his water-bottle, and now here he was writhing in pain. He had a reputation for always being where the bullets were most plentiful, and was never known to ask a soldier to go into any place of danger he himself would not go into. What made it more pathetic was that his wife and children were at that time living in Manila. Major Shields and his orderly both had their horses shot from under them. Two men were shot through the head, one through the chest. For the next fifteen minutes the firing was excessive, and it makes one tremble to think what a slaughter there would have been had the insurgents been good shots; but the majority of

their bullets passed overhead. To give an idea of the thickness of the fire would be hopeless, but I remember dressing a sergeant whose left arm had been pierced by a Remington bullet close to the shoulder joint. We had a friendly tree between us and the enemy's fire, but twice the bark on the opposite half of the tree was ripped up by a bullet, and small branches overhead were severed and fell on the dressings. As he said, it was a tidy bit of a scrap; but I for one never expected to come out of the scrap alive!

Just then we heard a cheer to the west of the railway line; the Oregon regiment was advancing upon the church. With a second cheer the 22nd and 3rd left the cover they were in and doubled across the valley and up to the church and village. Firing a parting volley, the rebels fled. The Americans lost not a man in the rush up to the church; one of them fell down with heat apoplexy and had to be removed, but that was their only loss.

One prisoner was captured in the village. The first thing he did was to light a cigarette. To the north-east of the church and village lay an open tract of country, across which the rebels were scampering in hundreds, with the object of reaching the woods that lay beyond. Several of them were shot as they ran and fell dead or wounded in the field. I found one Filipino captain shot through the head; his rifle had been carried off by another Filipino, but as he had fallen on to his cartridge bag, no time had been allowed to remove this in the general stampede. I appropriated his cartridges, and later on in the day counted 130 rounds of ammunition (the brass bullet). I mention this fact to show how well these men are armed. Further on I came across another poor fellow shot through the heart and lungs. Blood was welling up from his mouth and he was practically moribund. Not far from the latter I saw a struggling form endeavouring to conceal himself in the bush. Never shall I forget the look of terror in his eyes as I ran up to him; he thought he was about to be done away with. His left thigh had been pierced by a Craig-Jorgensen bullet. However, he calmed down when he found that my intentions were not murderous, and evinced every sign of gratitude when I proceeded to dress his wounds, even offering to go halves with the remainder of water in his bamboo water-carrier. I found his rifle, an 1896 Mauser, not far away, but the back had gone; he had thrown it away; and alternate coaxing and threatening on my part was futile in making him say what he had done with it or indicate where he had concealed it. Aguinaldo has issued orders that whenever a soldier feels himself to be mortally wounded or so wounded that he is rendered helpless and will probably fall into the hands of the enemy, he is immediately to conceal or destroy his arms and ammunition; on the other hand, should any soldier come across a dead comrade, he is to appropriate the arms and ammunition of the latter in order that they may not fall into the hands of the Americans.

In the woods around the open space (T) I counted over a dozen houses on fire. Why the rebels should ignite their own houses when they retreat is a conundrum difficult of solution—is it mere childish spite? As I write now, between Cavite and Malolos, it is possible to count over 200 columns of smoke, each one of them representing a burning house fired by the rebels.

Some field Artillery now came up from the east along the road leading to Malinta. Turning to the right at the village they proceeded along the road by the side of the railway-line to a spot (7) just beyond a railway station, now a mass of flames, and commenced shelling the woods, on the outside of which the rebels might be seen again lining up. The long, alim bamboo branches were mowed down by the shrapnel as corn by a scythe. To the extreme west the troops were advancing through the woods, and some heavy firing was going on. Here it was that a sad incident occurred. Prince Lowenstein and a comrade (German) had been out with the American fighting line the greater part of the day; they had just sought a temporary shelter from the enemy's fire in one of the deserted Filipino huts, and were both dressed in white, contrary to the numberless orders and warnings issued by the American authorities. Some American soldiers in the distance, seeing figures in white moving about inside the house, naturally mistook

them for insurgents and fired at them, killing the Prince and severely wounding his comrade.

The rebels along the woods stood their ground bravely, but the Americans gradually drove them into the woods. As we passed through these woods I took the opportunity of going through several of the huts and houses, and it was sad to see the years of patient toil and labour so suddenly terminated. I was particularly struck with the appearance of one house. Outside it was a neat little vegetable garden, and beyond some paddy-fields of rice. In one portion of the house the year's grain (chiefly rice) was carefully stored away in sacks; hanging on the walls were some half-dozen of the characteristic Filipino grass-cutters, consisting of a curved piece of wood, to gather the grass into a bundle, and a knife set at right angles to the handle. There were also fishing-nets and some long, thin barbed spears, evidently used for harpooning fish. A fire was still burning in the grate; on the table were the remains of some "chow," and on the floor a box, opened, in the bottom of which were a few brass cartridges, some of which were lying on the floor around. The inmates had been suddenly surprised, their last act being to hurriedly fill their cartridge bags. In nearly all the houses I found the remains of arms or ammunition, which proves that nearly every Filipino is a warrior at this crisis. Just outside another house a ghastly sight was seen. A pig had his forefeet, head, and chest lying by the side of a food-trough; ten yards away his entrails and the remainder of his body were stuck to the foot of a tree, a gash in the latter revealing the passage of a shell. As it was now getting late and towards the expiration of my leave, I had to reluctantly bid good-bye to my American friends and wend my way back. About half way between the burning station and Malinta village I came upon a group of American soldiers eating their meal of tinned corned beef. Having had nothing to eat myself since daybreak and it being now after 5 p.m. I gladly accepted the kind offer of a soldier to share their none-too-plentiful food, especially as it afforded me an opportunity of doing something in return for their kindness. We were discussing the fight, when two or three spent bullets fell on the line not far from us. As far as I could judge by the distance of the American fighting line these bullets must have travelled over a mile. Unfortunately one of these struck a soldier in the chest, entering his lung but not emerging. He was promptly treated, and we got him on to a stretcher, but I am afraid the poor fellow died, for on going over the Reserve Hospital two days later I could find no trace of him.

There is a great deal of difference between the American soldier and our own. As individuals, I look upon the former both physically and mentally as our superiors; collectively as distinctly inferior. Put in another way, the American soldier is better, probably, than the English, but an English regiment is better than an American. A typical soldier should be, speaking broadly, a non-thinking unit of an organized whole; he should be one of the wheels within wheels of a complicated machine, ready to obey in an instant the order of the officer immediately over him, without any private opinion he himself may entertain as to the utility or inutility of that order. Now the American soldier is not this; he discusses and criticises the tactics of his general with as much freedom as he would the weather. Another point with which one is particularly struck is their absolute indifference to danger, amounting at times to a callous recklessness. Before the line advanced from Calocan the soldiers might have been seen playing base-ball, though fully exposed to the fire of the rebel trenches. Every two or three days a life was lost through mere carelessness. On asking one of the men why he so exposed himself, he said: "Well, we've been in these trenches now for some six weeks and have got tired of dodging bullets." I was taking a photograph of a group of soldiers one day last week and was in the act of focussing on the ground glass, when a rebel fired at either me or the camera. The bullet went through the bush I was standing in, between the legs of the camera and into the earth just beyond. This being the first time I had experienced the whistle of a bullet within seven inches of my face, I am not ashamed to confess that I was some-

what discomposed, and could not prevent an involuntary ejaculation and start. Unfortunately I tripped and fell over the camera. The soldiers seeing what had happened rushed up to me thinking I was hit, and when they saw how matters stood they burst out into the most unceremonious laughter. Said one of them: "Guess that was a—sharpshooter who mistook the spout of your picture machine for the muzzle of a diarrhoea gun." The latter I take to be the equivalent of a gatling-gun.

With regard to the trenches, there is no doubt but that those made by the rebels are incomparably superior to the American. One can walk behind the former in an upright position with perfect impunity even as regards modern artillery; their one great and fatal fault is that they are not long enough and are destitute of lateral buttresses, being thus not capable of protection from an enemy in the rear or flank.

With regard to the shooting of the rebels, I can only describe it as accurately inaccurate. Their missiles always seem to pass 20 yards above the object they aim at. Were someone to lower their sights, or instruct them to aim at the ground some 30 yards in front of the enemy, their shooting would be deadly. They have a motley collection of arms and ammunition, which they have obtained from the Americans and Spaniards. The former gave them a considerable quantity of ammunition at the commencement of the Spanish-American war, but latterly the Filipinos have been obtaining large amounts through the agency of the Chinese. John Chinaman is a kind of middleman between the two foes; in the day-time he is with the Americans, smilingly driving their water buffaloes for them, but surreptitiously gathering information with his ears and ammunition with his hands. At night-time he sneaks over to the rebel lines and barter his pelf. I have seen Chinamen behind American trenches collecting sackloads of empty cartridge cases. I have found these as reloads in the cartridge-bags of the rebels. The latter are only hard up for the cases; the lead and the ingredients for making gunpowder they have in abundance. Only this week I came across two Chinese prisoners, and was told that they were caught in the act of making away with a whole case of ammunition. However, it must not be imagined that all the Chinese here act in an inimical manner towards the Americans; a great many of them have rendered invaluable service to the latter, loading their guns for them behind the trenches and cooking their food, etc. I have seen Chinese coolies carrying wounded Americans from the fighting line amidst a rain of bullets, displaying the utmost indifference to the danger they themselves were in. For a day's work of this kind John gets \$1.50, with which he is more than satisfied. Some of them, however, appreciate danger, as the following incident proves. Wishing to obtain some photographs of the action, I persuaded a Chinaman to accompany me and carry my camera with the promise of a dollar at the end of the afternoon. We had proceeded some distance with the troops, when a bullet or two whistled through the trees overhead, followed by the distant reports of rifles. One of the Americans drew my attention to John; he had dropped my camera and was scuttling away. I called out after him and held up two dollars, but his only answer was "pong, pong, no wantchee."

Belonging to a neutral power my sympathies are very much divided between the two foes figuring in this war, and no small share of them goes to the so-called rebels. One cannot help feeling deeply for these brave Indians, fighting to the last gasp for the retention of their own lands; fighting, too, against awful odds; for what can a Mauser do against modern artillery? Can anyone imagine a sight more calculated to inspire pity than a couple of hundred Filipinos on the sea-shore with a three inch gun endeavouring to sink the *Monadnock*, an armoured monitor with ten-inch guns. Yet such might have been witnessed off Paranaque a few days ago. About four months ago I was stopping at a place called Syambang, about 80 miles in the interior of this island, and was shown some of the home-made cannon used by the Filipinos. They consisted of large water pipes about four to six inches in diameter, one end of which was closed with an enormous block of wood; a hole bored through the metal, served as a touch hole; these they used to load,

with scraps of metal, stones, bits of iron chain, etc.; but they have now given up the water pipe cannon, as it used to blow up so many of their own people. At Guadaloupe I was shown one of the most ghastly sights I think it has ever been my lot to witness, but it impressed me with the terrible odds with which these poor natives are contending. There was a group of five dead Filipinos lying close to each other; a shell had exploded in their midst. One of the wretched men had the whole of the lower part of his face carried away by a piece of the shell but the awful part is yet to be told. The shell, was fired at sunset, and when the Americans advanced at dawn this poor man was still breathing. When it is remembered that these insurgents are a law-abiding, industrious, and peace-loving nation, and that they were forced into this present war much against their own will, and all through the overbearing insolence and brutality of the Spaniard, one cannot help feeling deeply for them.

However, it is to be hoped that they will shortly see that the American is a very different person to the Spaniard, and his ultimate motive a humane one. It is quite touching to go over the military hospital here and see the hundreds of wounded Filipinos having their wounds dressed, and being tended and looked after with as much kindness as is given to the wounded American himself.

SURGEON, R.N.
Manila, 31st March, 1899.

PROCLAMATION TO THE PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

The following proclamation has been issued by the American Civil Commission on Philippine Affairs:—

The treaty of Peace between the United States and Spain, ratified several weeks ago by the former, having on March 20th been ratified by the latter, the cession to the United States, as stipulated by the Treaty, of the sovereignty which Spain possessed and exercised over the Philippine Islands has now, in accordance with the laws of nations, received a complete and indefeasible consummation.

In order that the high responsibilities and obligations with which the United States has thus become definitely charged may be fulfilled in a way calculated to promote the best interests of the inhabitants of the Philippine Islands, His Excellency, the President of the United States, has appointed the undersigned a Civil Commission on Philippine affairs, clothing them with all the powers necessary for the exercise of that office.

The Commission desires to assure the people of the Philippine Islands of the cordial good will and fraternal feeling which is entertained for them by His Excellency the President of the United States and by the American people. The aim and object of the American Government, apart from the fulfilment of the solemn obligations it has assumed toward the family of nations by the acceptance of sovereignty over the Philippine Islands, is the wellbeing and prosperity and the happiness of the Philippine people, and their elevation and advancement to a position among the most civilized people of the world.

His Excellency the President of the United States believes that this felicity and perfection of the Philippine people is to be brought about by the assurance of peace and order; by the guarantee of civil and religious liberty; by the establishment of justice; by the cultivation of letter, science, and the liberal and practical arts; by the enlargement of intercourse with foreign nations; by the expansion of industrial pursuits, trade, and commerce; by the multiplication and improvement of the means of international communication; by the development—with the aid of modern mechanical inventions—of the great natural resources of the Archipelago; and, in a word, by the uninterrupted devotedness of the people to the pursuit of those useful objects and the realization of those noble ideals which constitute the higher civilization of mankind.

Unfortunately, the pure aims and purposes of the American Government and people have been misinterpreted to some of the inhabitants of certain of the Islands. As a consequence, the friendly American forces have, without provocation or cause, been openly attacked.

And why these hostilities? What do the best Filipinos desire? Can it be more than the United States is ready to give? They are patriots and want liberty, it is said. The Commission emphatically asserts that the United States is not only willing, but anxious, to establish in the Philippine Islands an enlightened system of Government under which the Philippine people may enjoy the largest measure of home rule and the amplest liberty consonant with supreme ends of government and compatible with those obligations which the United States has assumed towards the civilized nations of the world.

The United States, striving earnestly for the welfare and advancement of the inhabitants of the Philippine Islands, there can be no real conflict between American sovereignty and the rights and liberties of Philippine people. For, just as the United States stands ready to furnish armies, navies, and all the infinite resources of a great and powerful nation to maintain and support its rightful supremacy over the Philippine Islands, so it is even more solicitous to spread peace and happiness among the Philippine people; to guarantee them a rightful freedom; to protect them in their just privileges and immunities; to accustom them to free self-government in an ever-increasing measure; and to encourage them in those democratic aspirations, sentiments and ideals which are the promise and potency of a fruitful national development.

It is the expectation of the Commission to visit the Philippine peoples in their respective provinces, both for the purpose of cultivating a more intimate mutual acquaintance and also with a view to ascertaining from enlightened native opinion what form or forms of government seem best adapted to the Philippine peoples, most apt to conduce to their highest welfare, and most conformable to their customs, traditions, sentiments, and cherished ideals. Both in the establishment and maintenance of government in the Philippine Islands it will be the policy of United States to consult the views and wishes, and to secure the advice, co-operation and aid, of the Philippine people themselves.

In the meantime the attention of the Philippine people is invited to certain regulative principles by which the United States will be guided in its relations with them. The following are deemed of cardinal importance:—

1.—The supremacy of the United States must and will be enforced throughout every part of the Archipelago, and those who resist it can accomplish no end other than their own ruin.

2.—The most ample liberty of self-government will be granted to the Philippine people which is reconcilable with the maintenance of a wise, just, stable, effective, and economical administration of public affairs and compatible with the sovereign and international rights and obligations of the United States.

3.—The civil rights of the Philippine people will be guaranteed and protected to the fullest extent; religious freedom assured; and all persons shall have an equal standing before the law.

4.—Honour, justice, and friendship forbid the use of the Philippine people or Islands as an object or means of exploitation. The purpose of the American government is the welfare and advancement of the Philippine people.

5.—There shall be guaranteed to the Philippine people an honest and effective civil service in which, to the fullest extent practicable, natives shall be employed.

6.—The collection and application of taxes and revenues will be put upon a sound, honest, and economical basis. Public funds, raised justly and collected honestly, will be applied only in defraying the regular and proper expenses incurred by and for the establishment and maintenance of the Philippine government and for such general improvements as public interest may demand. Local funds, collected for local purposes, shall not be diverted to other ends. With such a prudent and honest fiscal administration it is believed that the needs of the government will in a short time become compatible with a considerable reduction in taxation.

7.—A pure, speedy and effective administration of justice will be established whereby the evils of delay, corruption and exploitation will be effectually eradicated.

8.—The construction of roads, railroads and other means of communication and transportation, as well as other public works of manifest

advantage to the Philippine people, will be promoted.

9.—Domestic and foreign trade and commerce, agriculture and other industrial pursuits, and the general development of the country in the interest of its inhabitants will be constant objects of solicitude and fostering care.

10.—Effective provision will be made for the establishment of elementary schools in which the children of the people shall be educated. Appropriate facilities will also be provided for higher education.

1.—Reforms in all departments of the government, in all branches of the public service, and in all corporations closely touching the common life of the people must be undertaken without delay and effected, conformably to right and justice, in a way that will satisfy the well-founded demands and the highest sentiments and aspirations of the Philippine people.

Such is the spirit in which the United States comes to the people of the Philippine Islands. His Excellency the President has instructed the Commission to make it publicly known. And in obeying this behest, the Commission desires to join with his Excellency the President in expressing their own good will toward the Philippine people, and to extend to their leading and representative men a cordial invitation to meet them for personal acquaintance and for the exchange of views and opinions.

Manila, April 4th, 1899.

JACOB GOULD SCHURMAN,
President of Commission.
GEORGE DEWEY,
Admiral, U.S.N.
ELWELL S. OTIS,
Major-General, U.S. Vols.
CHARLES DENBY,
DEAN C. WORCESTER.

John R. McArthur, Secretary of Commission.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

On the 13th April a meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held. The President (Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer) occupied the chair, and there were also present the Vice-President (the Hon. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police), the Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works), Mr. A. W. Brewin (Acting Registrar General), Mr. E. Osborne, Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), and Mr. C. W. Duggan (secretary).

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

The report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1898 was submitted.

Mr. OSBORNE suggested that the Government be asked whether a vote was accorded for the erection of two additional latrines in the city during the year, and if so why the work had not been carried out.

The PRESIDENT said there was a sum of \$5,000 provided in the estimates for two public latrines.

Mr. OSBORNE moved that a letter be addressed to the Government urging upon them the necessity of carrying the work out.

The VICE-PRESIDENT, in seconding, said they might point out that if two additional latrines were erected they would only be keeping pace with the increasing population, as the Medical Officer of Health pointed out in his report.

THE IMPORTATION OF DOGS.

Regulations and papers respecting the importation of dogs into the colony were submitted, one of the questions dealt with being whether dogs imported could be quarantined and whether the police would make arrangements for this. Dr. Clark minuted: "The dogs likely to be quarantined will be so few that a very small place would do; a small space railed off at the Cattle Depot would surely suffice?" The Vice-President minuted: "I have no place to quarantine dogs in. A place will have to be built; somewhere at Kowloon would be best."

On the motion of Dr. CLARK, seconded by the VICE-PRESIDENT, it was decided that a temporary arrangement be made for the quarantine of three dogs by railing in a portion of the Cattle Depot.

ANALYST'S REPORT.

Mr. F. Browne, Government analyst, reported that during the quarter ended March 31st he analysed six samples of brandy, one of gin, two of port wine, two of rum, and three of

whisky, and found all genuine excepting one of brandy.

THE PLAGUE.

A return from Bombay city showed that on March 13th there were 238 cases of bubonic plague reported there and 131 deaths.

The British Consul at Tainan reported that in the prefecture from March 21st to March 27th (both dates inclusive) 209 cases of plague occurred, with 144 deaths and 11 recoveries. From Jan. 7th to March 27th there had been 677 cases of plague, with 474 deaths and 52 recoveries.

The British Consul at Swatow reported on the evidence of the consular surgeon that there was no trace of bubonic plague in Swatow itself, but that it had been heard of in places a distance of about 20 miles off.

The mortality statistics for the Colony of Hongkong for the week ended April 1st showed a death rate of 15.8, against 14.8 for the previous week, and 29.4 for the corresponding week last year. The rate for the following week was 23.8 against 31.7 for the corresponding week last year.

During the week ended March 19th there were 39 deaths in Macao, and 34 during the following week.

Mr. OSBORNE pointed out that there was some slight increase in the cases of plague. Notwithstanding that they drew attention at their previous meeting to the law respecting the cleansing and lime-washing of premises there had been only 425 tenements lime-washed during the last 14 days in the Central District. There were 43 lime-washed before that, making a total of 468 tenements lime-washed up to the 13th April out of a total of 2,649, which left 2,177 unattended to. With a view to again warning householders he would propose that an advertisement be inserted in one European paper and one Chinese paper reminding them that their premises should be lime-washed by the end of April.

Dr. CLARK, in seconding, said that many more houses would have been lime-washed during the past fortnight had it not been for the scarcity of water. During the last fortnight there had been 23 cases of plague as compared with 12 for the previous fortnight. On the suggestion of H.E. the Governor between 700 and 800 rats had been caught by the officers of the Board during the month of March.

The motion was carried.
This was all the business.

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT.

The report of Dr. F. W. Clark, Medical Officer of Health, for last year was laid on the table at the meeting of the Sanitary Board on the 13th April.

AREA.

Under this heading particulars are given of the area of the colony and the number of dwellings. There was an increase upon the previous year of 64 European dwellings and 282 Chinese dwellings.

CLIMATE.

The average monthly temperature throughout the year has been 72.2 degrees F as compared with 71.7 degrees F during 1897; the maximum monthly temperature was attained in July, when it reached 81.7 degrees F, and the minimum monthly temperature was recorded in the month of January, being 30.1 degrees F, as compared with 34.2 degrees F in 1897. The highest recorded temperature was 91.5 degrees F on May 30th, and the lowest was 16.1 degrees F on the 25th January.

The total rainfall for the year was 57.025 inches as compared with 100.03 inches during 1897; the wettest months were June with 14.25 inches and August with 9.9 inches, and the driest was December with 0.025 inch. The greatest amount of rain which fell on any one day was 2.585 inches on August 25th, while no rain fell on 213 days of the year; the relative humidity of the atmosphere throughout the year was 74.6 per cent, being lowest in December, when it stood at 52 per cent, and highest in May and June when it stood at 83 per cent. The average daily amount of sunshine throughout the year was 5.8 hours as compared with 4.78 during the previous year; on 41 days only was no sunshine recorded.

These figures have been calculated from the monthly Reports issued by the Director of the Hongkong Observatory; the temperatures were taken at 108 feet above mean sea-level and at 4 feet above the grass.

GENERAL SANITARY CONDITION.

The provisions of the Public Health Ordinance (No. 24 of 1887) and of the Insanitary Properties Ordinance (No. 15 of 1894) have been steadily enforced throughout the year, and it cannot be denied that the sanitary condition of the three or four hundred new houses which have been erected during the year shows a vast improvement upon that of the buildings which were erected prior to the passing of the latter Ordinance, but I regret to say that the laws of this Colony still permit of the erection of back to back houses, which are universally admitted to be unhealthy, and the prohibition of the further erection of which was so strongly urged by Mr. Osbert Chadwick, as far back as 1882, and by many others since that date. The provision of open spaces in the rear of buildings is an absolute necessity to render them suitable as human habitations, and yet the whole city of Victoria, with the exception of the Taipingshan resumed area and the Praya Reclamation, might, under the existing laws, be rebuilt without a single backyard, area or open space attached to any house; and although the Architects do their best, I know, to persuade property owners to provide these open areas, yet it not infrequently happens that a pennurious landowner insists upon the whole of his land being covered by bricks and mortar, and a roof, to the great detriment, not only of his own, but also of his neighbour's property, and to the great injury to the health of all future occupants. The Model bye-laws which were drawn up by the Local Government Board many years ago, and which have been very generally adopted by Sanitary Authorities at home, require a minimum open space, exclusively belonging to each house, of 150 square feet in area, and although I am quite willing to admit that there are special circumstances connected with erection of domestic buildings for Chinese which would render this requirement excessive in some cases, yet there can be no doubt that legislation is urgently needed to secure some provision of this nature in respect of all houses that may be erected in the future.

The compulsory provision of open spaces in connection with existing dwellings is a somewhat more difficult problem, but I have no hesitation in saying that most of the Chinese dwellings in the city of Victoria would, if they existed at home, be at once condemned as "unfit for human habitation" under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, and it is only necessary to quote the opening paragraph of the report of the insanitary properties Commission, issued last year, to show how urgent is the necessity for some definite and prompt action on the part of the Government.

This paragraph reads—

"We regret to have to report that there are many insanitary properties in the colony and dwellings which, in their present condition, are unfit for human habitation. The back portions of a number of the houses visited by us are dark, ill-ventilated, extremely dirty, and in some cases mere dens of filth. The interior of the cubicles or sub-divisions of the living rooms was such that in the great majority of cases their contents could be seen only by the aid of an artificial light."

It is hardly necessary to argue that if dwelling-rooms, occupied by Chinese of the coolie class, are dark, it is impossible for any staff of Inspectors to ensure their being kept in a cleanly condition, and although the present state of the dwellings in the city compares most favourably with that which obtained only some four or five years ago, yet it is indeed an almost hopeless task to seek for cleanliness with a tulla's eye lantern in the almost Cimmerian darkness of the typical Chinese tenement dwelling.

There is still most urgent necessity throughout the Colony, and especially in the City of Victoria, for many additional free public latrines and urinals; provision was, I believe, made for the erection of two additional latrines in the city during the ensuing year; these would not, however, have sufficed even to keep pace

with the rapid increase in the population, so that the city would have been no better off than heretofore, but unfortunately the expenditure upon these has been disallowed, so that the condition of the city in this respect is rapidly becoming worse.

No provision whatever has been made for the erection of additional urinals, either for Europeans or for Chinese, although only three public urinals at present exist in the city for a male population of about 125,000. Many are the complaints of the offensive smell of urine in side and back lanes, and from the gully traps in the streets throughout the city, but so long as no provision is made, in this respect, for the thousands of coolies who daily traverse these streets, I fail to see what other result can be expected, or in what way this undoubted nuisance can be prevented.

POPULATION.

Under this heading details are given of the various sections of the population. In the ten health districts of the city of Victoria the number of persons per acre varied from 15.6 in No. 1 district to 982.3 in No. 5, the average being 113.1. Dr. Clark says:—From this it will be seen that No. 3 health district, which is situated in the centre of the city, shows acute surface crowding, while districts 6, 7 and 4 are almost as densely crowded. The most densely populated metropolitan districts of the city of London are St. James's, Westminster, Whitechapel and St. George's in the East, but none of those had a population of more than 200 persons to the acre in 1891.

BIRTHS.

A table is given showing the number of births, namely, Chinese, 592 males and 371 females, Non-Chinese, White, 100 males and 78 females, and coloured, 40 males and 25 females. Dr. Clark says:—The most remarkable feature, however, about the birthrate of this Colony is the great preponderance of male over female births; in Great Britain and in temperate climates generally the proportion is 104 male births to every 100 female births, but in this Colony the proportion is, among the white races, no less than 128 male births to 100 female births. The preponderance of male births over female births is not nearly so marked among the Chinese as among the white inhabitants, but yet the ratio stands at 117 to 100, which is greatly in excess of what obtains in Europe.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths registered during the year was 5,674 as compared with 4,688 during 1897 and 5,860 during 1896. The death-rate for 1898 was therefore 22.3 per 1,000, as compared with 18.85 during the previous year and an average of 23 per 1,000 during the preceeding five years (exclusive of 1894). These deaths, however, include no less than 1,175 from Bubonic Fever (Plague), and if these are omitted the death-rate appears at 17.7 per 1,000. The total number of deaths among the Chinese was 5,383, which is equal to a death-rate of 22.5 per 1,000.

The deaths registered among the Non-Chinese community were 291, of which 200 were among the white races and 91 among the coloured. The deaths among Non-Chinese include 49 deaths from Bubonic Fever, and the total death-rate among the white races was 16.2 per 1,000, and among the coloured races was 33.6 per 1,000.

MALARIAL FEVER AMONG THE TROOPS.

One of the tables given under the heading of "Deaths" shows the mortality amongst the troops, and in connection with this Dr. Clark says:—This shows a loss of something over 7 per 1,000 per annum among British troops, from malarial diseases alone—a sufficiently high death-rate to warrant active measures of protection on the part of the military authorities. The pure white civilian population of the Colony (i.e., not including the locally-born Portuguese) numbers nearly double that of the British troops, and yet only three deaths from malarial diseases occurred among them during the year, two being old men, aged 67 and 70 respectively, and the third, a lad of nine years.

EMPLOYMENT OF NATIVE DOCTORS RECOMMENDED.

Under the heading of "Uncertified Deaths" Dr. Clark writes:—During the year there were 641 deaths of Chinese who were not attended by

a medical man, and in every case the relatives of the deceased were interviewed by myself, and the dead bodies inspected by one of the Inspectors of Nuisances, and, in all cases of doubt, by myself also. In this manner we were enabled to discover three deaths from bubonic fever (plague) and two deaths from small-pox, which would otherwise have been recorded as due to some less alarming maladies. I am still of the opinion, moreover, that there is great scope in this direction for one or more Chinese doctors, well trained in Western medicine, who should be attached to the Sanitary staff, and who would prove most valuable allies, in encouraging their countrymen to observe the elementary principles of sanitation, and in detecting the commencement of any outbreaks of infectious disease. Many of the hygienic crimes committed by the Chinese in this Colony are unquestionably due rather to ignorance than to wilfulness, and the intelligent propagation of our laws by men of their own nationality would, I feel sure, go far towards ameliorating those conditions which at present tend so largely to the discomfort of European colonists and to the detriment of the health of the Chinese themselves.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SHIPPING.

Under the heading of "Infectious Diseases" Dr. Clark writes:—No less than 44 of these cases are known to have been imported into the colony, while it was in addition impossible to discover whence many of the cases of bubonic fever and small-pox had come, as they were not discovered until the patients had died and the bodies been deserted by the other occupants of the house; of these 44 cases, 16 were small-pox, 22 bubonic fever, 5 enteric fever, and 1 diphtheria. The question of the medical inspection of the shipping of the port, urged by me during the past three years, and dealt with in detail in my report for 1897, is still, I regret to say, in abeyance, with the result that persons suffering from infectious disease may land in the colony, with impunity, provided that they are unaware (or refuse to admit that they are aware) of the infectious nature of the disease from which they are suffering. For mail steamers and others that carry a surgeon, the present regulations may no doubt be admirable, but as it is the vessels which do not carry surgeons, and especially the native craft that are most likely to foist cases of infectious disease upon the colony, I must adhere to my previously expressed opinion that we have only ourselves to blame when grave epidemics are originated, as unquestionably they are in many instances, by the unrecognized importation of the initial cases.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

In the section of the report devoted to the "Age distribution of deaths" the following paragraph occurs:—The death-rate among the infant population is a most serious item in the mortality returns for the Colony, since no less than 18.4 per cent. of the deaths recorded occur in infants under one year of age. The infant death-rate among the Non-Chinese inhabitants of the Colony during the year was 139.9 per 1,000, as compared with 120 during 1897, and the rate among the Chinese population was 630 per 1,000 as compared with 593 during 1897. This rate still shows, however, an improvement upon former years, among the Chinese, for in 1896 it was 745 and in 1895 it was 759 per 1,000. As I have pointed out in previous reports, this high infant death-rate is largely due to the insanitary condition of the houses of the poorer classes, and the fact that it has been so far reduced since 1894 is an earnest of the further beneficial results which may be expected to accrue from the improvements in the sanitary condition of the Colony generally. The rise in the rate for the past year is merely a part of the general rise in the mortality, due to the fact that last year, like most exceptionally dry years, was an unhealthy one, as well for the European as for the native members of the community.

A MATERNITY CHARITY REQUIRED.

Under the heading of "Puerperal Fever" Dr. Clark writes:—Six cases of puerperal fever were notified during the year, of which one only was a European, and the remaining five Chinese. Ten deaths from this disease were, however, registered, all being Chinese, while thirty-four deaths among Chinese were also registered as due to child-birth, and some of these also no

doubt were really deaths from septic absorption. In view of the fact that the registered births among the Chinese number only 963 (the estimated births being 1,605), these 44 deaths represent a very high death-rate among young Chinese parturient women, and there appears to me to be a very great need for some maternity charity among the Chinese, preferably in connection with the Tung Wah Hospital and under similar management.

PROSECUTIONS.

A return of the prosecutions instituted during the year is given, from which it appears that the number of summonses taken out was 570, the convictions 437, and the penalties \$7,783.

MEDICAL INSPECTION IN JAPAN.

Mr. R. C. Wilcox, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, writes:—This Chamber is informed by the Government that the Japanese Consul advises the decision of the Japanese Government to enforce medical inspection, on and after the 4th April, 1899, at the ports of Yokohama, Kobe, and Nagasaki against all vessels arriving from or through Hongkong.

THE DISASTER ON THE PRATAS SHOALS.

MARINE COURT OF ENQUIRY.

On 13th April a marine court was held at the office of the Harbour Master for the purpose of making enquiry respecting the circumstances connected with the loss of the British barque *Clwyd*, official number 106,845, of Liverpool, Thomas Thomas, number of whose certificate is 06489, was master and commander.

The court was constituted as follows:—Commander R. M. Rumsey, R.N., Stipendiary Magistrate; Staff-Commander Rogers, R.N., H.M.S. *Tamar*; Captain William Finch, of the *Gaelic*; Captain J. T. Davis, of the *Chelydra*; and Captain Thomas Fraser, of the *Queen Margaret*.

Mr. Looker (Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) appeared for Captain Thomas.

The letter of Captain Thomas applying for an enquiry was read, and also the warrant constituting the court.

Captain Thomas said—I hold a master's certificate, issued at Liverpool in 1882. I have been in command since 1888, and in 1898 I took command of the *Clwyd*, an iron barque of 1,060 tons. She was 14 years old. We left Hongkong on the 30th March on a voyage to Peru, with a full cargo of rice. She had a full crew of 21 all told. Nine of these were A.B.'s; there were two certificated officers. The ship was in proper sea-going condition when she left Hongkong. We were towed out of harbour about 7 a.m. as far as Tytam Channel. The tug cast off there, and we proceeded under full sail. At 3 p.m. there was a squall from the westward. We sailed through the Tytam Channel at 4 p.m. under full sails. About 5 p.m. the wind came round to the N.W. and blowing heavy. We were steering E.N.E., and at 7 p.m. Wagon Light shone on the starboard bow N.W. & W. (Mag.) about 20 miles distant. We kept the same course till midnight. By the hand-log she had made 31 miles at midnight from the position at 7 p.m. Up till 4 a.m. she was making E. and N. for about 20 miles. We continued with a fairly fresh breeze and foggy weather, going from five-and-a-half to five knots until the time of the casualty, at about 2.30 a.m. on the 1st April. I relieved the second mate at 12 o'clock midnight. The weather was overcast with a heavy swell from the north-east, and the wind was from north-east, at force 3. Two top-gallant sails were out, and top sails and courses. William Reece, an old sailor, was at the wheel, and W. Williams, an A.B., was on the look-out. About three minutes before the ship struck I sighted the breakers on both bows ahead. I observed them from the bridge. The yards were not sharp up. She was going clean full by the wind on port tack. I ordered the helm hard up, and this was done by the boatswain and the man at the wheel. The boatswain was on the poop. We let go all the stay sail sheets and boom sheet, and the ship laid off to south. By this time she was fast paid off to south. I clewed up all the sails so as not to drive her further on, and cleared away

all the boats. After this the wind shifted to the eastward, and we made sail again and backed the yards to try and broach her off, but she did not move. As we could do no good, I ordered the boats to be lowered and put men in them to keep them clear of the ship's side. Less than a quarter of an hour after striking, the well was sounded and found in water. Shortly afterwards we sounded again and found 2½ ins. The third sounding was five inches, the fourth ten, and the last 18. The two last soundings were taken in quick succession, as fast as we could take the rod up and put it down again. About this time the sea began to come over the ship. I ordered the boats alongside. We got into the boats and stood by until daylight. We made two attempts to get on board again at half-past seven, but could not succeed. After that I considered it best to abandon the ship and make for land, and this was done, all hands eventually arriving at Hongkong. When we left the ship she had a heavy list to starboard. Before leaving the ship we clewed up the top-gallant sail, foresail and mainsail; the jibs and topsails were on. There were two compasses in use—one steering compass and one standard compass, the latter being placed about the mizzenmast of the poop. The compasses were last corrected in Liverpool in March, 1897. I have got a deviation card and verified it myself. The last occasion on which I took observations for the correction of the compass was the day I left Hongkong at about 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. I remember that was S. 40 E., the deviation was 7 degrees E., also S. 36 E., the deviation was, I believe, 5 degrees decreasing. The chart I was working with was Admiralty 2,661 B., and the Chinese Sea Directory, vol. III. I did not save the log.

Commander Rumsey—On these occasions the log never turns up. I always make the remark that it would be better if it did. It is a very small book and could be easily carried.

In reply to further questions, witness said—The mate had been ill since leaving Hongkong, and the second mate had kept the log in another book, which was not saved either. No observations for position were taken after leaving Tytam Channel, as the weather was overcast and no sun was visible. From Friday morning till Saturday morning the ship had been steered by the wind clean full. I was in the habit of laying off on the chart the course and distance made every four hours. I did it on this occasion. These courses are now on the chart produced, and they were placed on the chart at the time. I cannot remember what course was made good up to noon on Friday, nor what was the position by dead reckoning at that time. I allowed 15 points for current right through, and I expected to pass 20 miles to westward of the reef. I had cautioned the look-out man to keep a good look-out, and when I was on the forecabin a few minutes before I saw the land through my glasses. Only about three or four minutes before she struck I put the helm up instead of trying to stop the ship, as on account of the light wind and the swell I did not expect she would come round. I did not sound round the ship at any time before I left her. I did not have with me a large plan of the reef. The chart I was using did not have any depths astern of the ship suitable for laying out an anchor, besides which the boats could not be kept near enough for that.

In reply to Commander Rogers, witness said that according to his reckoning the ship was 20 miles off the shoal to the northward at midnight on Friday. That was his reason for not going to leeward of the shoal. He had said he always put his position on the chart every four hours. He meant in deep water, not on long voyages, such as the north or south Atlantic, nor did he do it in the vicinity of the Pratras on a former occasion. He had lost the deviation card.

Witness was questioned by other members of the court, and was also examined by his solicitor. Hugh Jones, first mate of the *Clwyd*, gave evidence, and the enquiry was adjourned.

The U. S. transport *Sheridan* arrived at Singapore on the 7th April with 1,800 troops en route to Manila.

ENTERTAINMENT ON BOARD H.M.S. "VICTORIOUS."

On board the above battleship on the 6th April a capital and very amusing entertainment was given by members of the crew, and below we give the programme in full. The weather was unpropitious, but it did not prevent hundreds of invited guests from the ships in harbour and a few friends from Hongkong accepting the invitation extended, and when the curtain rose there must have been about fifteen hundred sailors and others present, every available corner being occupied and even the big guns being used as vantage points. As will be seen by the programme, the composers introduced many smart items and witty sayings, the reading of which put the audience in a good humour from the start. The scenery was very good indeed, and in Mr. Ridgwell the ship has a clever scenic artist. The drop-scene represented a large lifebelt surrounded with the United Kingdom's emblems—shamrock, thistle, and rose—and in the centre was a good picture of the *Victorious* riding peacefully on an unruffled sea, under a clear blue sky.

The evening's entertainment opened with an overture by the ship's band, under the able conductorship of Mr. Fenning. The songs and duets sung were all encored. Sergt. May was in capital voice, and sang "Mona" in good style. Commander Hewitt's gramophone caused much laughter, the items it rendered being "The little Alabama Coon," a "Banjo duet," "Sale of a piano," "Laughing Song," and "Boys of the old Brigade." Then followed the sketch entitled "Leg Bail," and the curtain dropped for the interval; but the sailors shouted for a song from their popular commander, who rendered a nautical ditty with much satisfaction.

The second part was as much enjoyed as the first, the song by Wilson ("Leonora"), the lecture on the Talkphone by Cook, and a musical quartette by Lewis, Middleton, Keen, and Sheppard, eliciting vociferous encores. A most pleasant and enjoyable evening was concluded by the acting of the racy little sketch "In spite of all."

The Petty-officers invited several guests for dinner, and the mess erected for the occasion looked well, especially the table weighted with appetising and enticing viands. Several of the lower-deck messes were decorated with flags and bunting.

The following is a facsimile of the programme:—

THE VARIETY TROUPE OF H.M.S. "VICTORIOUS."

By kind permission and under the distinguished patronage of Capt. A. SCHOMBERG, R.N., and Officers of H.M.S. *Victorious*, will give a grand

VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT

On board on Wednesday, April 5th, including the celebrated "Absurdity" written expressly for this Company, by Li Hung Chang, entitled:—"LEG BAIL,"

In which they hope to verify the general opinion of all, i.e., that they are a "PARCEL OF IDIOTS."

General Manager.....Lieut. Alton, R.N.
Musical Director.....Mr. A. Fenning.
Stage Manager.....G. Lewis.

Scenery designed by W. Ridgwell.

N.B.—Box Office open during "Stand Easys" excepting "Surprise Landing Days."

PART I.

- 1.—Overture..... Band.
- 2.—Song (Senti.)..... "Mona" May.
- 3.—Duet ... "Slops and Peelers" Powell & Knibbs..
- 4.—Coon Song ... "Lubly Gals Reply" Cook.
- 5.—Duet... "Well Slightly"... Ridgwell & Wilson.
- 6.—Song (Des.)... "After the Play"..... Denyer.
- 7.—Song ... "Quarter of yard of Tripe" Lewis.
- 8.—..... "The Gramophone" Mr. Borge-s.
- 9.—Sketch..... "Leg Bail"

CHARACTERS.

Wm. Binks, Convict III Cook.
The Old Governor..... Powell.
The New Governor Preston.
Jones (Head Warder) Ridgwell.
Lucy "The Old Governor's Daughter" Moseley.

PART II.

- Selection Band.
- Song..... "Leonora" Wilson.
- Song (Comic)... "Our Lodger" Moseley.
- Lecture on the Talkphone ... Professor Cook,

- 14.—Duet "Topical"..... Denyer & Powell.
- 15.—Musical Quartette ... Lewis, Middleton, Keen, Sheppard.
- 16.—Song (Comic) "Say can it be love"... Ridgwell.
- 17.—Song (Comic) "Staring me in the face" Preston.
- 18.—Sketch..... "In Spite of all"

CHARACTERS.

Hon. Jack Lambert (A wealthy young farmer and owner of Black Prince) May.
Rose (His Wife) Wilson.
Tom Snowden (Lambert's Trainer) Lewis.
Joe (Jockey, Tom's Son)..... Keen.
Surly Jim (A Stable hand) Powell.
Lord de Courtney (Race-horse owner and former suitor of Rose) Denyer.

Ladies are particularly requested not to sigh, weep, or otherwise give illustrations of their joy as some of the performers being of mature age such exhibitions of feelings may cause them to suffer unreasonable pangs of grief.

The audience are also particularly requested not to show marks of their approbation by throwing Maxim Guns, Fire Engines, Street Anchors, Richshas, and Football Challenge Shields, as some of the performers being slightly deranged, it may cause them to collapse entirely.

During the interval, "Buns" will be served out, which the audience are respectfully requested to provide themselves before coming on board, and persons coming from a distance will be provided with a Feeding Bottle and a cake of "Pears' Soap."

Children in arms carrying their parents not admitted.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS:

They are not worthy of our criticism.—Wei-haiwei Express. We consider one visit sufficient.—Suez Canal Chronicle. A compact set of fools.—War Cry. Something appalling.—Port Hamilton Budget. Their descriptions are all issued.—Police News. A well-grounded dislike for the show.—Port Said (bad) Times. Hear we can't get in—hope so.—Dooking Gazette.

WATER RETURN.

LEVEL AND STORAGE OF WATER IN RESERVOIRS ON THE 1ST APRIL.

LEVEL.		1898.	1899.
Tytam.....	29ft. 2in. below overflow	51ft. 5in. below overflow	
Pokfulam	7ft. 9in. below overflow	37ft. 7in. below overflow	
STORAGE GALLONS.		1898.	1899.
Tytam		183,080,000	82,850,000
Pokfulam		49,080,000	1,350,000
Total		232,160,000	84,200,000

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN THE CITY OF VICTORIA AND HILL DISTRICT DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH.

	1898.	1899.
Consumption ...	84,030,000	95,992,000 gals.
Estimated population	194,000	199,500

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN KOWLOON PENINSULA DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH.

	1898.	1899.
Consumption	5,607,000	5,714,000 gals.
Estimated population	25,500	26,700

Consumption per head per day... 7.1 6.8 gals.
The Government Analyst reports that the water is of excellent quality.

R. D. ORMSBY,
Water Authority.

The Bicycle Gymkhana at Tientsin had to be postponed owing to a lady cyclist getting her face seriously injured by a fall caused by her dog, which she was leading.

Three houses belonging to Mr. Startseff on the French Concession at Tientsin were burnt on the 26th March, one completely and two partially. Insurance unknown.

The *Straits Times* says the Russian Government has issued orders that no Jews shall take up their residence either at Port Arthur or Tientsin. Our contemporary does not quote its authority for the statement.

A FRENCH GROWL AT ENGLISH HOTELS AND ENGLISH COLONIES.

The other day a party of Englishmen started a row at the Saigon Hotel, owing to a dispute about the payment for their liquor. The hotel-keeper called in a European policeman, who received "un solide renforcement dans l'estomac," whereupon the Frenchmen present joined in, and the row became general. "Vous voyez d'ici le tableau au milieu d'une terrasse pleine de monde, de dames en toilette de théâtre et de beaux Messieurs idem." The disturbance ended by the Englishmen spending the night in the lock-up. The *Courrier de Saigon* says the affair was not a serious one, and it does not wish to attribute to it a greater importance than it deserves; but our contemporary makes it a text on which to hang a homily upon the difference between the hotels at Saigon and those at Colombo, Singapore, and Hongkong; and upon the contrast that exists between the manner of "running" French and English colonies. At Saigon "Uncle" Ollivier will give you a dinner of eight courses, three or four different kinds of dessert, bread, wine, coffee, and cognac at discretion, the whole for three and a half francs. "Yes, gentlemen of Great Britain, all this for a dollar and a quarter, and not very long ago for \$1.20. Incredible, is it not? At Hongkong or Singapore such a dinner would cost at least five dollars if it cost a cent; and one would not dare to ask for a second bottle of claret, for that would mean three or four dollars more, god damn." This expletive is given once or twice in the article, in English, with a few more of our choice expressions. The writer says he has travelled a great deal in many parts of the world, but never has he been squeezed as he was at Colombo. He then opens the vials of his wrath upon that unfortunate place, and is especially bitter with reference to the crowd of harpies who hang on to passengers there, making landing a horror, and preventing one anywhere admiring the beautiful prospect in peace. Talk about Englishmen making themselves respected in the places they govern! One would not think so after visiting Colombo. Never would such annoyance be supported in a French colony; if the Annamites were guilty of a tenth part of it they would very soon be called to order. In conclusion the writer apostrophises as follows:—"Your island of Ceylon is magnificent, unequalled in scenery and natural beauty in any other part of the world, but the people who inhabit it under your domination have rendered it so hateful, so odious to foreigners passing through, that in Indo-China and in the Netherlands Indies people are thinking of starting a mutual self-protection society. The members of the society would undertake not to land in your port, in order to escape being subjected to the habitual extortion. The conduct of the Singalese towards Europeans is a scandal upon the civilised world." We feel constrained to admit that the strictures of our contemporary as regards Colombo are not altogether without justification.

THE ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

QUARTERLY MEETING.

A fairly average attendance on the links has to be recorded for the various events. Rain still holds off, and the greens are in consequence inconveniently keen and unreliable. Following are the details of the cards returned:—

MACLEWEN CUP.

Mr. E. C. Lane ...	103	16	87
Mr. H. W. Robertson ...	97	10	87
Mr. C. W. Dickson ...	103	15	88
Mr. W. Taylor ...	99	10	89
Mr. C. A. Tomes ...	100	8	92

22 entries.

POOL.

Capt. E. Burnie... ..	96	15	81
Mr. P. L. Goddard, R.N. ...	94	11	83
Lieut. Moreton, R.N. ...	97	12	85
Comdr. Davison, R.N. ...	107	12	95

19 entries.

BOGEY CUP.

Lieut. Moreton, R.N. ...	all even	rec. 9 strokes
Dr. J. A. Lawson ...	1 down	owe 1 stroke
Mr. H. W. Robertson ...	2 ..	rec. 8 strokes
Mr. E. C. Lane ...	3 ..	12 ..

Mr. C. M. G. Burnie	4 down rec.	3 strokes
Mr. P. L. Goddard, R.N.	5	8
Mr. W. Taylor	5	8
Comdr. Davison, R.N.	6	9
Mr. E. A. Ram	6	7
23 entries.		

The "Tie" for the "MacEwen" cup must be played off by the two members as their first round of the links, on or before the 17th inst.

GREAT EASTERN AND ORIENTAL GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

On the 12th April, an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders of the above Company was held at the offices of the Company, No. 7, Queen's Road Central, for the purpose of confirming or otherwise the special resolution passed at the extraordinary general meeting held on March 28th. The chair was occupied by Mr. R. C. Wilcox, and there were also present, Messrs. G. C. Cox, R. Abesser (directors), D. Warren Smith, G. Forstmann, E. Georg, J. de Graca, and L. Lambotte (secretary).

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, this meeting is called for the purpose of confirming the special resolution passed at the extraordinary general meeting, held on the 28th ult. for the purpose of increasing the capital of the Company. That resolution was as follows:—

"That the capital of the company be increased to \$500,000 by the creation of 16,000 Ordinary Shares of \$5.00 each, and 70,000 Preference Shares of \$1.00 each; such shares to be issued at the discretion of the Directors, provided that they shall be offered in the first instance to the existing shareholders in proportion to the amount of the capital held by them at the time of such issue.

"The holders of the said preference shares shall be entitled to a cumulative preferential dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum.

"Whenever the profits of the company in respect of any year shall be more than sufficient to pay the preferential dividend aforesaid to the close of such year, and also a dividend for such year at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, the holders of the said preference shares shall be entitled to participate in the surplus *pari passu* with the holders of the other shares.

"In the event of the winding-up of the Company, the holders of the said preference shares shall be entitled to have the surplus assets of the Company applied in the first case in repaying to them the amount paid up on the preference shares held by them respectively, and the residue of such surplus assets shall, subject to the rights of members entitled to shares issued upon special conditions as hereinafter provided, belong to and be divided among the ordinary shareholders of the Company, and if there shall be more than sufficient to pay the amount paid up on the ordinary shares, such surplus (if any) shall be divisible between the holders of the preference shares and the ordinary shares rateably."

It now only remains for me to propose that this resolution be and is hereby confirmed.

Mr. GEORG seconded, and the motion was carried.

This was all the business.

STRAITS INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Straits Insurance Company was held at the Company's offices, Singapore, on the 29th March, for the purpose of submitting for confirmation the resolutions passed at the extraordinary general meeting on the 15th idem. The Hon. T. C. Bogaardt, the chairman of the Company, presided and was supported by the following directors: the Hon. G. S. Murray, Mr. A. W. Stiven, Mr. D. W. Lovell, Mr. T. S. Thomson, Mr. W. Naef, and the legal adviser of the Board, the Hon. J. Burkinshaw. The shareholders present were Messrs. A. Gentle, M. Meyer, T. Scott, A. Currie, A. C. Moses, R. E. Sassoon, H. Abrams, A. Kandassamy, Lee Kow Yee, Low Yap Seng, Ong Koon Choo, Wee Koon Sim, and Chew Swee Tiong.

The Secretary, Mr. A. S. Murray, first read the notice convening the meeting, in which were set forth the details of the resolution for confirmation authorizing the increase of the capital by 30,000 new shares of \$10 each. This resolution has already appeared in our columns. The Secretary announced, also, that the resolution for the reduction of the capital would not be submitted to the shareholders at that meeting, as the Board had been advised that sufficient notice had not yet been given.

The Chairman, Mr. Bogaardt, then said—Gentlemen, having already, at our meeting held on 15th instant, explained the object of the resolution which was then passed, I have now only to propose that it be confirmed as a special resolution. An erroneous impression that the directors had abandoned their original proposal appears to have been created by the publication of the offer received from Mr. Forwood. Mr. Forwood's scheme was placed before the shareholders as an alternative proposal to be dealt with later, when we know definitely its terms and conditions, and when we have received replies to the circulars issued to shareholders asking for their views in regard to it. I may, however, at once tell you that we do not propose to use the powers conferred by the resolution if shareholders agree to the proposal which was placed before you by circular on the 20th instant. We have been in communication with Mr. Forwood for some time past, but only recently have we been able to arrange terms and conditions likely to be acceptable to shareholders. It has been suggested that the directors desire to carry on the Company against the wishes of the shareholders. Such a statement, both mischievous and unfounded, hardly needs contradiction. The directors have been careful to take every possible means to ascertain the views of all the Company's shareholders, and they have been guided, and will continue to be guided, by the clearly expressed views of the general body of shareholders. Shareholders who have a substantial interest in the Company will do well to consider for themselves what will be the outcome of enforced liquidation, so lightly recommended by the smaller holders. To such small holders the experiment may not be of serious moment, but to the larger holders the question is a serious one. The directors have carefully considered the position and outlook from every point of view, and they say to you that the scheme proposed by Mr. Forwood offers the best available way out of our present position. We have ample liquid funds for the requirements of our business if continued on existing lines and limits; but we cannot hope to attract the best class of business in foreign countries on the security of a depreciated silver capital although it be really sufficient to cover all our liabilities. If we closed our London and Australian Branches, and confined operations to the Straits and Far Eastern ports, there would not be sufficient business to enable us to secure a proper average of lines and limits. In such a case to operate on large limits would mean that two serious casualties in one year would kill our account, and to operate on small and safe limits, in the restricted field, would mean being starved out. The alternatives to be faced therefore, are, find additional capital, or abandon the business. I have said that our funds are ample for all current requirements, but you must not, therefore, conclude that they must be sufficient to liquidate the company if liquidation is forced at the present moment. There could be no more inopportune time than the present to offer a large business for reinsurance. Other companies besides the Straits are nursing their business in view of recent disastrous times, while those who are plunging for a large premium account, to cover their losses, are still less in a position to offer us favourable terms for our business. But it is the expense attendant upon the liquidation of a marine insurance business that must specially be considered; it would not merely eat up our surplus funds but possibly entail a call upon shareholders. The expense of liquidating the Straits Marine Company, without the help of a friendly company, would be very considerable, and would extend over a period of seven years at least. Add to this expense the cost of reinsuring current risks, and the cost of liquidating claims and other obligations already incurred and which cannot be reinsured, and you will possibly find your funds

exhausted and a call in prospect. On the other hand, the scheme put before you by Mr. Forwood relieves you at once from further responsibility (as to the possible extent of your loss), and opens out the possibility at least, of retrieving past losses. The new Company will take up our business as a going concern with a sufficient capital in Sterling, and the prestige which attaches to a London office backed up by an influential board of directors. These are our views and we request shareholders to give us an expression of their views, and if the decision is in favour of Mr. Forwood's scheme, as we have every reason to believe it will be, we will give effect to it, and, equally, if any representative number of shareholders inform us that they desire the Company to be forthwith liquidated, we will immediately take steps to give the necessary opportunity and facilities for carrying out their views and we, as directors, will not oppose them. Owing to there being some doubt as whether sufficient legal notice has been given of the resolution for writing down the capital of the company, that resolution will be postponed until a future meeting.

The Chairman moved that the special resolution be confirmed.

Seconded by Mr. A. Currie, the motion was carried, a count of hands showing fifteen in favour and six against.

The second resolution as to the alteration of number 88 of the Articles of Association was then put to the meeting by the Chairman for confirmation.

Mr. Currie seconded, and the resolution was confirmed by fifteen votes to six.

There was no other business before the meeting.—*Straits Times*.

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

The following is the thirty-eighth report presented to the shareholders at the half-yearly meeting held at Yokohama on the 10th March:—

Gentlemen,—The directors submit to you the annexed statement of the liabilities and assets of the Bank, and profit and loss account for the half-year ending December 31st, 1898.

The gross profits of the Bank for the past half-year, including yen 339,817,596 brought forward from last account, amount to yen 5,611,848,239, of which yen 3,942,258,520 have been deducted for current expenses, interest on deposits, &c., leaving a balance of yen 1,669,589,719, out of which yen 79,786,000 have been written off for officers' remuneration.

The directors now propose that yen 340,000,000 be added to the reserve fund, increasing it to yen 7,300,000,000; and yen 100,000,000 be set aside for the contemplated new building. From the remainder the directors recommend a dividend at the rate of fifteen per cent. per annum, which will absorb yen 450,000,000 on the old shares and yen 337,500,000 on the new shares, making a total of yen 787,500,000.

The balance, yen 392,303,719 will be carried forward to the credit of next account.

NAGATANE SOMA, Chairman.

Head Office, Yokohama, 10th March, 1899.

THE NEW AMOY DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED.

On 25th March the seventh ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the above Company was held at the office of Messrs. Lapraik, Cass & Co., Amoy. There were present Messrs. J. Farrow (Chairman), R. H. Bruce, F. Cass, W. S. Orr (Consulting Committee), T. G. Gowlan, J. Anderson (Manager), C. C. Carvalho, (Secretary).

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman said—Gentlemen, the report has been with you for some days and with your kind permission we will consider it as read. As stated, the docking work offered during the year has been unusually small. It is satisfactory, however, to know that apart from actual dock rent, a fair living can be picked up, to which the increasing launch traffic contributes a fair share. After a long period and and volumes of correspondence, our foreshore

case is practically settled; there only remains a slight dispute with our neighbours as to position of boundaries, which the Consul assures me will be settled in a few days. By arrangement the original lease is cancelled, and new titles (white deed), &c., are now in our hands; we have parted with some of our water frontage, but have gained a corresponding area partly on reclaimed land. Altogether, we have obtained a clean perpetual lease, against one terminable in 66 years, a yearly rental of 20 taels against \$50, and 30,000 square feet of valuable land with a frontage of 75 feet. I am glad to be in a position to say that the first two months of this year shew a great improvement on the last. The recent extension to the Dock has been practically tested by the docking of a steamer of over 30' feet long and a vessel with over 40 feet beam, leaving ample space in both cases. Turning to the accounts, you will have noticed that the reserve fund has increased by the addition of \$10,500; this is accounted for by the disposal of balance of profit realized by the sale of the Kulangsu property after reduction of capital. I am sorry to inform you that chiefly on account of ill-health we are about the loss by retirement our Manager, Mr. J. Anderson, who leaves us about the end of this month. His loss will be greatly felt by us, for to his knowledge, experience, and popularity is largely due the success which has attended the Company since it was floated. Mr. Black, an engineer possessing first-class testimonials and experience, has been appointed to the post of Manager as Mr. J. Anderson's successor. Before moving the adoption of the report I shall be glad to answer any questions in my power.

Mr. Anderson asked whether any money had been spent in relation to the land obtained.

The Chairman replied that \$1,000 had been spent, of which the Government had practically promised to return \$680.

It was then moved by the Chairman and seconded by Mr. T. G. Gowland that the report and accounts be passed.

Carried unanimously.

Mr. W. S. Orr said that he thoroughly endorsed the Chairman's remarks with regard to Mr. J. Anderson, and proposed that he should be presented with something which would be a souvenir from an appreciative Company, and further that such souvenir should take the shape of a service of plate.

The Chairman seconded Mr. W. S. Orr's proposition, and suggested that Messrs. W. S. Orr and T. G. Gowland should select the plate in question.

This was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. J. Anderson, seconded by the Chairman, Messrs. R. H. Bruce, F. Cass, and W. S. Orr were re-elected on the Consulting Committee.

Mr. W. H. Wallace was re-appointed auditor on the proposal of Mr. Gowland, seconded by Mr. Orr.

A vote of the thanks to Chairman concluded the meeting.—*Amoy Gazette*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

MAIL DESPATCH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—The newspapers by last English mail, which arrived at Hongkong on Good Friday, were received here on Saturday, 1st April, while the letters by the same mail were only received here (with Canton P.O. stamp of 5th) to-day. As the P.O. at Hongkong found time during the holidays to forward the newspapers, is it not rather strange that they found no time for forwarding the certainly more important letters, which, as I understand, arrive sorted.

UNUS PRO MULTIS.

Whampoa, 5th April.

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS' CROWN-LEASES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR,—May I ask the favour of your inserting the annexed copy of a letter which I addressed to the Editor of the *China Mail*, but

which was shut out on account of the late hour at which it was received.—I am, yours faithfully,
GRANVILLE SHARP.

Hongkong, 8th April, 1899.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CHINA MAIL."

Dear Sir,—In your comments of last night upon the Chamber of Commerce Meeting, you say—"The question relating to the sudden change in the length of leases from 999 years to 75 years was sensibly referred to in the Chairman's speech. The address of Mr. G. Sharp, as representing the landlord interest, might be open to question, as formulating a special plea for the owners of property, and naturally more on the side of those who fix rents than upon the side of those residents who have to pay them. Increased Crown rents, also, in such case, would benefit the general body of ratepayers. We have no space at present to deal with all the points put forward in the report and speeches. But the outlook is encouraging, even in the face of Colonial Office inertia, when we find a body like the Chamber of Commerce in union with other kindred local institutions, is entirely on the right side."

I believe that the Committee of the Chamber has fairly earned, and that they will appreciate, this expression of your approval. I also thank you for the line by which your criticism of my words is qualified. It is quite possible that you and many of your readers have forgotten the Chamber's letter of the 22nd September last to the Right Hon. Secretary of State for the Colonies, upon the subject of the change in the term of Crown leases. I therefore venture to ask that you will be kind enough to reprint it here at foot. I think you will find that my address is mainly, if not altogether, based upon the statements therein contained.

If you simply mean by your comment that the objections come better from the Committee of the Chamber than they do from me, I am altogether with you. In this matter they could hardly be more disinterested. These gentlemen represent much property in Hongkong, but I do not know that they are personally interested therein.

You would hardly insist that being interested in a matter disqualifies any one from expressing an opinion. Editors of newspapers frequently write upon the importance of the freedom of the press. It would be hard upon them that the public should throw discredit on their statements because they are directly interested. So also with questions affecting property. Each section of the community exercises vigilance for its own protection, and, provided that due benevolence is shown towards others, the statements even of those interested are considered as *bona fide* and often regarded with the more attention from the fact that the men are supposed to know well the matters upon which they speak.

I rarely overdraw my bank account, but I have done so in the past, and know where the shoe pinches nine out of ten holders of property in Hongkong. These borrowers of money are as useful, or more so, than the lenders, and are entitled to consideration. It is they who have, in large degree, developed the colony. I confirm the statements of the Committee of the Chamber that it will be disastrous for Hongkong if, after their continuance for more than fifty years, these grants of 999 years' Crown leases be broken off. Where would the Colony be without its builders? We used to be dependent upon hulks in the harbour; shall we go back to them again?

Why, sir, are shares so much more generally held than estates? Because it is so very much easier. None work harder than the property owners of the colony. Ceaseless activity and constant vigilance are required; and when realization is necessary, the owners of shares have a great advantage. I should be sorry that my worst enemy should go through all which I have known of these labours.

May I venture to deprecate the needless reference to class interests, as calculated to stir up unkind feelings between them. Among those whose chief wants are supplied, altruism should not be, and is not, altogether absent. Although rents are high in Hongkong, it is the effect of the climate and exceptional conditions, more than the lust of gain.

You say against short leases, "increased Crown rents, also, in such case, would benefit the gen-

eral body of ratepayers." I beg leave respectfully to differ from you. The Crown rents will have to be provided for, in the first place, by the Crown lessees; and finally will fall upon the sub-tenant in the shape of increased monthly rental. The owner will be compelled, not only to secure a fair interest upon his capital expended, but also to provide a sinking fund for the replacement of his property at the end of the shortened term, involving an addition of fifty per cent. to present rentals.

I have not purchased a piece of land in Hongkong for many years, and have no desire to increase my interest therein. I hope that the expectations of the Chamber's Committee will be fulfilled, that the 999 years' leases will become greatly enhanced in value. It will well serve my ends. But I would much rather that my fellow colonists share with me the advantages to come, and sincerely hope that the order discontinuing the issue of these long leases may be withdrawn, in deference to the strong and united expression of opinion from our leading merchants, bankers, and owners of property.—I am, yours faithfully,

GRANVILLE SHARP.

[The letter from the Chamber of Commerce to which reference is made by Mr. Sharp appeared in the *Daily Press* of the 15th October last.—Ed., D. P.]

ACCOMMODATION FOR THE CUSTOMS OUT-DOOR STAFF.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Dear Sir,—On behalf of a body of men who dare not speak for themselves or protest against their treatment, I would beg your indulgence for permission to call public attention to the manner in which the I.M. Customs are neglecting to make proper provision for the members of the Out-door Staff. Months have elapsed since the Kowloon Convention was signed, and absolutely nothing has been done towards erecting quarters or stations. Now, at the eleventh hour, little dog kennels are being constructed to shelter white men. It would seem that the policy of drift was being followed as usual. The quarters provided by the Kowloon Customs in the past, with a few exceptions, have always left a great deal to be desired. It has now passed that point and become a public scandal. Money has been thrown away by thousands on useless objects. If this money had been expended in a more appropriate way, i.e., towards providing good accommodation, the necessity of publishing this letter would have been uncalled for.—I am, sir, your obedient servant.

TRUTH.

Hongkong, 11th April, 1899.

A BICYCLE VOLUNTEER CORPS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR.—Now that cycling has become so common and popular in this colony, it seems that the cycle might with advantage be turned to account in the defence of the colony or the suppression of disorders. With the temperature at 80 deg. and over marching would soon exhaust our few defenders were they called upon to do much of it, whereas if they could cycle by road to the nearest point at which their services were required their strength would be economised for climbing the hills to the point they were to operate at against an enemy and for the real fighting. A small body of cyclists would be a mobile force, which could be rapidly concentrated on any point required and hold an enemy in check till the main body of defenders arrived. They would also form a useful force for scouting, for bicycles could be concealed amongst brushwood, and one or more men left to see that they were not tampered with by the natives. Again, if a large number of cycles were secured in a double row to bamboos by their handle bars, one or two men could convey them along the road to the point where they were wanted. I should say that this method of moving them by the guard left in charge of them would form one portion of the drill. I make the suggestion for what it may be worth. If the bicycle could be used by volunteers to advantage in this colony, how much more so at Singapore, Shanghai, and Tientsin, where there are long stretches of level roads. A maxim gun and ammunition mounted on

tricycles would be a good accompaniment to a bicycle volunteer corps. I venture to say that a bicycle volunteer corps would render volunteering popular with many who would otherwise not join that useful arm of defence.

INNOVATION.

Hongkong, 12th April, 1899.

MINES IN THE NEW TERRITORY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Sir,—There is little doubt that some rich mineral deposits will be found and worked in the new territory added to the colony, and the royalty charged on working them will probably prove a welcome addition to the local revenue.

The silver mine in Lantau and the lead mine in Kowloon (situated about three miles due north from the old frontier line), now that they are free of all danger of having a lot of Chinese official harpies saddled on to them, should under the new conditions prevailing pay for the working; these would be the first of the new mining industry.

PROSPECTOR.

Hongkong, 12th April, 1899.

HONGKONG GRANITE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Sir,—There is such an ample store of good granite in the Colony easily got at and easy to ship, that it is strange no company has been formed to work it for export abroad.

There must be a large market for granite worked into blocks, slabs, and columns all over the Far East, not to mention seaport towns in India, America, Australia, and Canada, where the granite ought to be landed from here at a much lower figure than it could be worked locally. The Philippines, too, under American administration should likewise prove a good market for it.

ENTERPRISE.

Hongkong, 12th April, 1899.

LANTAO.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR,—As the large island of Lantau forms part of the new territory to be formally taken over on the 17th instant, I am surprised that so little notice has been taken of it; in fact, I fear our officials have not even paid it a visit. We have heard a great deal about Mirs Bay, Deep Bay, Tolo Harbour, and Crooked Harbour, but no word of Lantau and its harbour, which is in my opinion the finest in the world. The depth of water varies from 3 fathoms in shore to 15 fathoms in the stream. It is well sheltered and would contain the combined naval fleets of the whole world. It has four entrances. Lantau Island has a population of about ten thousand, so I am informed, and the largest village is Tai-ho, near the west end of the island.

The harbour of Lantau was formerly spoken of as the Tongku anchorage, and was strongly recommended to Captain Elliot by all the East India Company's captains in preference to what is now Hongkong harbour.

As the traffic increases—as it surely will do—on this island, the Steamboat Company will connect it to their Macao line for the convenience of the general public.—I remain, dear sir, yours obediently,

W. E. CLARKE.

Hongkong, 13th April, 1899.

ANOTHER DEMAND FOR TERRITORY.

The following special telegram dated Peking, 7th April, and the accompanying note appear in the *N. C. Daily News* :—

The Island of Yangmao (Yang-mao-tao) near Shanhaikuan, Gulf of Pechili, has been formally demanded from the Tsungli Yamen by a certain Power. Although the Yamen has refused further cession of territory to any Power such strong pressure has been brought that there are doubts whether resistance is possible unless by force of arms. General Tung Fu-hsiang has offered to hold the island with his Kansu troops, but up to to-day the Empress Dowager has still refused him permission, owing to the weakness of the Chinese modern fleet.

[Note.—In the summer of 1898, under secret instructions from Jung Lu, then Viceroy of Chihli, a corps of graduates from the Military and Naval Academies of Tientsin were sent as quietly as possible to visit all the islands and ports in the Gulf of Pechili to select and survey the most likely place for the future Naval Station of the new Peiyang Squadron. Yangmao Island was selected, and plans were drawn up for fortifying the place, and constructing docks and machine shops. The news has caused considerable conjecture amongst local mandarins as to who the "certain Power" is, the general feeling being that it is either Russia or Japan.—ED.]

GREAT BRITAIN AND SIAM.

ALLEGED SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES.

The following is from the *Siam Free Press* the French organ, and should probably be accepted only with considerable reservation:—A serious dispute has broken out between Great Britain and Siam in connection with the claim of the former country to the Siamese Malay State of Rahiman, north of Perak.

Mr. George Greville, C.M.G., the British Minister, insists on an extension of the Perak boundaries, but the Siamese have refused to obey his orders on this point.

This dispute is one of long standing, having begun several years ago, when a British subject lost his life in the disputed territory owing to the lawlessness that prevailed in it.

From reports that have come to hand from the north sensational developments may be expected there shortly.

THE A-GLO- RUSSIAN AGREEMENT.

We (*China Gazette*) have high authority for stating that the long-talked-of agreement between Great Britain and Russia respecting the interests and policy and spheres of the two Powers in China has been advanced to such a stage that it may be considered as definitely settled—unless something unforeseen occurs between this and the exchanging of the final Notes between St. Petersburg and London. The contents and extent of the agreement, of course, are not divulged, but we are assured that the British sphere in the Yangtse will extend northward to very near the Yellow River, which will be the Southern boundary of Russia's sphere. From what we can gather Russia also agrees not to interfere in any disputes that Great Britain may have with other Powers respecting China, so that France can play her cards in this part of the world alone. One of the first results is the collapse of the "Belgian" Syndicate's railway scheme from Hankow to Peking, from which Russia having now withdrawn her support—it was mainly got up by her and to enable King Leopold to add some more to his vast store of wealth—France is unwilling to advance the necessary capital for it. Belgium, without army or navy to enforce her rights in China if the latter should violate her agreement or repudiate her liabilities, refrains from investing her own money in that hairbrained venture, which as a strategic move was undoubtedly excellent, but as a commercial undertaking was foredoomed to failure from its birth.

THE KIAOCHOW RAILWAY.

Mr. P. Hildebrand, formerly of the Woosung Railway, was to begin the special survey of the railway from Kiaochow to Weihien on the 22nd ult. The general survey of the line from Tsintao to Chinanfu and back to Ichoufu and Tsintao, was finished four months ago by Mr. H. Hildebrand, the Managing Director of the Railway, and all the general plans for the whole line from Tsintao to Chinanfu were finished two months ago. The building of the line is to be begun very shortly, and the work will be pushed forward rapidly.—*N. C. Daily News*.

Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co., Agents of the Yangtze Insurance Association, Limited, have received information that the directors will recommend at the general meeting of shareholders the payment of a further dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. for previous years.

THE ANTI-FOREIGN OUTRAGES IN SHANTUNG.

ATTACK ON THREE GERMAN TRAVELLERS PLUCKILY REPULSED.

We (*N. C. Daily News*) have been kindly permitted to publish the following extract from a private letter dated Ichoufu, the 23rd of March:—

To the south-west, twenty miles from us, there have been a number of riots, but no one punished for anything as yet. A Catholic priest who is just in from that vicinity to-day says that his life has only been saved through the fleetness of his horse; and that for three months he has had to keep the horse saddled day and night, so that he might be able to flee at any hour.

Three Catholic Christians have been killed in Feihien, about 40 miles to the west of us.

Six of them have been killed at Shenshan, 20 miles S.W., of whom two were burned to death in a big public bonfire. This is a different affair from the one I wrote of in my last letter, when the child was burned, and two had their eyes put out by the fiendish mob.

The perpetrators of the outrage to the east of us, who dismembered the bodies of two Catholics, and burned them over the fire, burned the living child, etc., having received no punishment of any kind, have been emboldened to attempt still further outrages. Yesterday, however, they met with an unexpected check. Three Germans, Lieut. Hanneman, Mr. Forschulte, and Mr. Moots, who had been landed from a gunboat on the coast directly east of us, and who were on their way to this city, stopped at Wangkia-chuang, the headquarters of the rioters in that vicinity, for their breakfast. Everything was perfectly quiet and peaceful. There was no disturbance, and after settling for their breakfast they started on their way to this place. After getting out about two li from the village, however, they suddenly became aware that they were being followed by a large number of armed men, a hundred or more in number, who had spread out on both sides and were rapidly surrounding them. Some of them carried the ordinary native guns, and some carried the big two-men guns. They were evidently bent on mischief, but the Germans did not at first realise how serious the situation was. Mr. Moots, who has been an official interpreter, stopped and talked to the people, urging them to keep the peace. He assured them that they were not Catholics, or indeed missionaries, but travellers going quietly to Ichoufu. They continued to close up on them and then opened fire. The Germans did all they could to induce them to desist without bloodshed, but without avail. They had taken refuge behind some graves while parleying, but as the only response to their entreaties was a general fusillade from their assailants, and as branches from the trees were falling about them, cut off by the bullets or by shots from the enemies' guns, they saw that the situation was desperate, and determined to lose their lives dearly. They were all armed with revolvers, and began returning the fire of their foes. As their revolvers made comparatively little noise, and gave off almost no smoke, the Chinese set up a shout of derision, and came on more boldly for a little time, until they noticed one and another of their company falling, and then they began to realise that the foreign revolvers were doing execution, if not making a noise, and they began to give way. The Germans then sprang to their feet, ran toward their assailants twenty steps, and falling to the ground, renewed firing. This movement they repeated two or three times, when the Chinese turned and fled. In the meantime their servants and barrowmen had scattered and of their six barrow-loads of effects all but one barrow-load had been carried off. With this they made for Ichoufu, about 25 miles, on foot, reaching here about sunset, having been followed by their foes all the way, but without suffering from another attack. At the time they themselves did not know how severely they had punished the enemy, but word comes to-day that three Chinese are dead and three others so badly wounded that recovery is not expected. And now the strange thing is that this morning the missing goods and barrows and men were all brought in by a party of men from

that vicinity, who had succeeded in recovering them (with the loss of but a few unimportant articles) from the rioters, and brought them at once to the city. Whether they did this from respect, or whether they feared the three plucky Germans would return and destroy their village, I do not know.

The Germans, with an escort of cavalry furnished by the native official, are starting back to the seacoast to-day, where the German gunboat *Gefion*, with the Governor of Tsintao on board, is awaiting their return, and then we have reason to expect that a body of German soldiers will at once land and march into the interior here, and attempt to restore order. The expedition had come to Antungwei for this purpose, if it was found on investigation that the native officials were unable of themselves to restore peace. They claim that they have no desire for conquest here, and no purpose of permanent occupation, but of course that is what is always said under such circumstances, and it is not always easy to let go. The local officials about here who are competent to handle the people and punish the ringleaders in the repeated riots, are hampered by lack of men and, worse still, by lack of support from the higher officials. In the few cases where they have fought with the mobs in their efforts to preserve order, in case of the death of a rioter the soldiers have been arrested for murder (!), and as the result of one such affair four have lain in jail for months, and would have been executed long before this but for our representations to our Consul, who has greatly interested himself on their behalf.

For some reasons we regret the coming in of the German soldiers here, but there seems to be no other alternative; and as rioting and bloodshed are of almost daily occurrence in this district, and have been for months, and as the native officials cannot or will not do anything to remedy matters, we are unable to do any work in the country, and our lives are in daily danger here in the city, and so we will welcome the restoration of quiet, no matter by whom brought about.

GERMANY AND CHINA.

THE OCCUPATION OF ICHAO.

STRENGTH OF GERMAN FORCE.

CHINESE ATTEMPTS AT A COMPROMISE.

Peking 4th April.

The German force which has been ordered to advance on Ichao numbers 120. A force of the same strength is stationed at Ichao and Antong, and communication is kept open between the three places. The troops landed number in all 360.

Shanghai, 4th April.

The Tsungli Yamen has sent telegraphic instructions to the Chinese Minister at Berlin ordering him to question the German Government on its object in landing armed troops on the coast of Shantung south of Kiaochau Bay.

Peking, 3rd April.

A conflict has taken place between the German and Chinese troops, the latter attempting to oppose the German advance. The Taotai of Ichao has fled. The Germans have probably now reached Ichao. A note addressed by the German Minister to the Tsungli Yamen is said to state that troops have been sent to Ichao for the protection of the Germans resident there.

Peking, 4th April.

The German Minister has intimated to the Chinese Government that the town of Jishao (between Kaimohau and Ichao) will be occupied by Germany until the excitement of the people has subsided. The Chinese Government desires to open negotiations at Berlin, but the German Government has refused.

Shanghai, 4th April.

The action of Germany in landing troops south of Kiaochau is due to the fact that while negotiations on various questions with China arising out of religious disturbances are not yet settled, three Germans were assaulted at Ichao. Thereupon three hundred German troops occupied Jishao on the 29th ult., and marched upon the villages where the Germans were assaulted.

Peking, 3rd April.

It appears that riots have occurred at several places besides Ichao, and outrages have been committed upon German mission stations.

Peking, 4th April.

The German troops have occupied Jishao, Antong, and Ichao, 120 men being stationed at each place.—*Kobe Chronicle* translations from Japanese papers.

FIRE INSURANCE ON NATIVE RISKS AT SHANGHAI.

The following is published with the minutes of the last meeting of the Shanghai Municipal Council:—

The following letter from the Fire Insurance Association is read, and, in connection therewith it is decided to lay the matter before the Taotai through the usual channel and request him to amend his proclamation.

Fire Insurance Association of Shanghai, Shanghai, 28th March, 1899.

Sir,—The attention of my Committee has been called to a proclamation issued by Tsai Taotai on the 30th day of the 1st moon of the 25th year of Kwangsu (11th instant) and which is no doubt the proclamation promulgated at the request of the Municipal Council with a view to the prevention of incendiary fires. My Committee observe that according to this document the Taotai proposes that in cases where fire breaks out on Chinese insured premises, the amount of the claim to be paid by the Insurance Companies is to be divided into three equal parts, one of which is to be given to the Fire Brigade as a contribution to their expenses, another to the neighbours who may have suffered through the fire as compensation for their loss, and the third to the insured himself. I am desired to request you to point out to the Taotai that according to the insurance contract where no fraud is suspected the policy holder is entitled to receive the amount of his just claim without any deduction whatever, and that the Companies have no power to agree to division of the money that may appear to be payable in the manner referred to. The effect of the proclamation has already been to discourage Chinese from effecting insurance, as they are led to apprehend that in the event of a legitimate claim arising, they may be deprived of their just rights. The action of the Taotai is directly calculated to discourage insurance, which is recognised as a public benefit throughout the civilised world, and my Committee are satisfied that the intention of the Council in approaching the Taotai in the public interest as they were good enough to do was not to discourage insurance, but to suppress incendiaryism. My Committee will be grateful if the Council will take steps to have the misapprehension on the part of the Taotai corrected at the earliest possible date.—I remain, sir, your obedient servant,

GEO. D. SCOTT, Secretary.
The Secretary, Municipal Council.

INLAND WATERS NAVIGATION.

The following letter from the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce to the Consul-General is published with the minutes of the last meeting of the Chamber:—

Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce, Shanghai, 9th March, 1899.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge your letter (No. 9) of 25th ultimo, replying to the Chamber's communication on the subject of the Inland Waters Navigation rules and regulations, and in which you point out the desirability of the regulations being put to practical test in Shanghai, which so far has not been done.

There can be no doubt that the reason why necessary capital has not been forthcoming for the building of suitable craft for Inland Navigation is to be found in the want of faith in the bona fides of the native officials, and in the consequent dangers and difficulties which it is feared will surround the practical working of the regulations. But though no steps have so far been taken in Shanghai to put the regulations to practical test, there are, as you are aware, many launches plying under foreign flags between Shanghai and places in the interior, and in reply to enquiries as to why they do not take advantage of the new regula-

tions, the answer received is that the launches, excepting only a small cargo-carrying trade between Shanghai and the recently-opened treaty ports of Hangchow and Soochow, are solely engaged in passenger traffic, and that the owners do not care to face the dangers which they are satisfied will result from any attempt to carry or tow merchandise.

That there is reason for such fear seems to be well grounded by the treatment which launch-towed goods receive, if passed through the foreign Customs, at the hands of the native officials at Soochow, the trouble connected with such goods being, the Chamber is informed, so great that the passing of goods for Soochow through the foreign Customs is being discontinued, and return is being made to the ordinary likin system.

The Chamber has, moreover, been engaged in procuring information as to the working of the regulations in Chinkiang, where trial has been given to them. The information received is to the effect that the trial has been a complete failure, and that out of 28 launches which were engaged in the inland traffic in 1898, only one is now running, and that only as far as Yangchow. An individual experience is given as follows:—"My experiment of five months' working to 31st December, 1898, running six launches with passengers only to Tsingkiangpu and Luliohsien—60 miles N.E. of Chinkiang—and elsewhere, resulted so disastrously that I have ceased running them, and have disposed of all but two, which are now laid up." No one in Chinkiang, the Chamber is informed, can be induced to have their goods towed by the launches; the likin exactions and squeezes by the native Customs' underlings, the exasperating delays at the tax stations, and the brow-beating and bullying of the boatmen and passengers are declared to be fatal to success of any kind. This condition of affairs is no doubt correctly attributed to the determined and powerful opposition of the hordes of likin officials and underlings who see their chances of squeeze threatened. The report from Chinkiang goes on to say:—"Few people have any idea of the crowd of officials and hangers-on connected with an ordinary likin station. At Hwaikuan, on the Grand Canal, they number fully 3,000 and live in a town of their own; the head of the office is of the Imperial Clan, and so large are the emoluments that he is changed every three years, being supposed in that time to have made his fortune." The Viceroy, it is stated, is not personally opposed to the new inland traffic nor is there any opposition on the part of the people, who, on the contrary, are said to welcome it, and are enquiring when foreign hongas are to be established inland. The trouble which has brought the Chinkiang venture to grief is plainly that which was pointed to in the Chamber's first communication, namely, the obstructive power of the likin officials, and until this power is broken it is impossible to think that the regulations can be rendered operative.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

C. J. DUDGEON,

Vice-Chairman.

Byron Brenan, Esq., C.M.G., H.B.M.'s Acting Consul-General, Shanghai.

STORM ON THE YANGTSE.

Shanghai, 4th April.

A terrific storm raged on Wednesday over the Yangtze valley, the worst being between Hankow and Ichang, causing loss of life and great damage to floating property. During the forenoon a gloomy and threatening sky hung over the district, and early in the afternoon the wind freshened from the north-east, increased rapidly to a gale, and blew itself out soon after midnight. Scores of junks and native cargo and passenger boats were capsized, or wrecked on the mud banks, and large quantities of merchandise and wreckage were seen drifting down the river, eagerly waited for by hundreds of boatmen in the smoother reaches, that is the shorter ones or those at right angles to the wind. One large junk capsized close to the B. and S. hulk at Hankow, but owing to the extreme roughness of the water no help could be extended. The steamers at the hulks had an uneasy time during the night, those on board

fearing the parting of the chains, consequently everything had to be kept in readiness. The boats at the various Chinese life-saving stations worked hard throughout the afternoon and rendered valuable assistance to life.—*N. C. Daily News.*

F. RMUSA.

Telegrams from Formosa are to the effect that the rebel chief Ko Ti-at has made act of submission. This man, though only 26 or 27 years of age, is said to have wielded great influence. He had his head-quarters in the Kagi district, and whenever he raised his standard numbers of insurgents flocked to it. There were originally four recognised leaders of rebels in Formosa; namely, Tiu Chiu kiok and Lim Ho-ong of Taipei; Hong Kok-tim of Taichu, and Ko Ti-at of Kagi, the last being far the most formidable. The three first had already been brought under control, and only Ko remained. The train of events by which his submission was brought about is said to have been this:—When Baron Kodama sent a force to clear out the Tainan rebels, the latter's leader, Lin Tek-sek, was taken prisoner. Finding that Liu had formerly held the rank of Major-General in the Chinese army, the Japanese treated him with due consideration, and, instead of subjecting him to the punishment of a rebel, gave him safe conduct to Amoy. Liu was so moved by this act of grace that he despatched letters to his former chief Ko Ti-at, urging the latter to submit to the Japanese, and Ko has now followed his some-time lieutenant's counsel. It is now expected, according to Tokyo newspapers, that the days of disturbance in Formosa are virtually over. We should be glad to think that the forecast is justified.—*Japan Mail.*

THE FRICTION BETWEEN GERMANY AND AMERICA IN THE PHILIPPINES.

The following telegram published in American papers and dated Berlin, 6th March, throws some light on the alleged friction between Germany and America at Manila:—A high official of the German Navy Department has informed the correspondent of the Associated Press that the appointment of Prince Henry of Prussia, brother of Emperor William, to the command of the East Asiatic Squadron, had been considered for months past and was finally decided upon as being the most available, the Emperor desiring to show the American people that he is thoroughly friendly to them, knowing that Prince Henry is popular in the United States. When the official referred to was asked whether the appointment was equivalent to the disgrace of Admiral von Diederichs, he said: "Not exactly. If Admiral von Diederichs had shown more tact last summer before Manila it would undeniably have been productive of good results all around. Our Government, unfortunately, was advised too late of a number of occurrences before Manila, none of which were really important; but they showed grave want of tact upon the part of Admiral von Diederichs. The main trouble was that Admiral von Diederichs was insufficiently informed regarding international naval usages in such a delicate situation. Consequently he continued naval movements, drill and searchlight practice as if elsewhere than in a blockaded port, thus arousing distrust upon the part of the Americans." The above is important as being the first German official admission that there had been trouble between the Germans and Americans in Manila bay.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

The Viceroy has received instructions from the Peking Government to stop the Chin-shan loan, which was ordered to be raised from the people, repayable in twenty years by instalments. It is said that all the money that has been raised will be confiscated, but that ranks and offices will be given to the subscribers as compensation.

Some days ago General Feng Tsz-tsoi received an order from H.E. Liu Kun-yi, Viceroy of Nanking, to hire and drill five

thousand soldiers of the Kwangtung Province for him. Several days ago General Feng Tsz-tsoi sent two thousand five hundred to the Province of Kiangsu and two thousand five hundred to the province of Chekiang, under command of his son. Further instructions have been received from Viceroy Liu Kun-yi by General Feng to enlist another lot of Canton soldiers to be sent to Nanking.

General Liu Yung-fu has been sent by the Viceroy to get all the forts in Ngahmoon, in Sanui district, about fifty li from Macao, repaired, and to establish three more forts there. It is said that the Viceroy has received instructions to make all preparations for any emergency.

The rumour that another rebellion has broken out in Kwangsi has caused alarm amongst the merchants in Fatshan, who do a large business with the province of Kwangsi. Very few goods have been sent there lately. Upon enquiry however, it has been ascertained that the report of another rebellion is untrue. A letter was received on the 3rd instant by a shop in Canton from Kwangsi saying that the rumour of rebellion was mistakenly spread on account of many robberies having been committed there lately. On the 6th ultimo about four hundred armed robbers plundered over forty shops in a market town in Paklan district and small robberies have been committed nightly in all the surrounding districts. The cruelty and violence of the robbers have disheartened all the merchants, the market being very dull. A notice was issued by the Magistrate of Chong-Ing, in the prefecture of Wuchow, saying that on account of rumours being spread that some rebels were hiding in the village of Shik-Tong the Magistrate of Yungun went in person with a number of soldiers and successfully effected the capture of a rebel leader surnamed Ng and killed twenty-six of his followers, the rest having been all scattered. That place is now quiet and safe. The towns in the Watlum prefecture are also very quiet, for Sub-Prefect Ko has lately captured the noted rebel leader Leung Kwai-fong, who, as reported, was about to raise a rebellion in Taitong village, in Watlum district. At the beginning of the second moon some robberies were committed in the suburbs of the city of Chumchow, but a good number of robbers were at last caught and executed. The rumour that another rebellion has broken out is not true, so that all merchants should go on with their business as usual and need not be afraid, for the local gentry have been all advised to enlist local volunteers for the protection of their respective towns.

On the 5th instant heavy rain accompanied by thunder was experienced in Canton.

HONGKONG.

There were 1,658 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 182 were Europeans.

Mr. E. Shellim has joined the Board of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank vice Mr. D. Gubbay.

A telegram has been received by the Government from the British Minister to Japan, dated Tokyo, 8th April, as follows:—Cattle disease inspection regulations enforced from 4th April against arrivals from Hongkong.

We hear that Gleanealy is in danger of further desecration, plans having been got out for a new tramway to the Peak, which is intended to follow that route. The public, we think, would prefer to see the new line follow some other course.

During last week a number of European and Indian constables for service in the Kowloon new territory were selected. We understand that it is intended to have one European and two Indians at each station, the rest of the staff to be natives.

On Sunday the dead body of a Chinaman named To Hing, who was employed on the *Evening Star* ferry launch, was conveyed to the public mortuary. He was taken ill while on the launch and died almost immediately, heart disease being given as the cause of death.

The return of the number of cases of communicable diseases notified as occurring last week is as follows:—Bubonic plague, 19 cases, 16 deaths; enteric fever, 2 cases on U. S. S. *Bennington*; smallpox, 3 cases, 1 death,

On 10th April a party set out from Hongkong to see what they could salvage from the abandoned ship the *Chryd*, which struck the Pratas Shoals last week. A lot of valuable stuff was left on board, though if the vessel remained afloat the fishermen would no doubt soon be on the scene to see what they could pick up.

We are informed that on Saturday afternoon a Chinaman suffering from smallpox in an acute stage was seen walking along Queen's Road Central, that he held a cloth to his face, but both face and neck were seen to be covered with pustules, that he was carefully avoided by other Chinamen, and that seeing an Indian policeman ahead he turned up Duddell Street.

At an early hour the other morning a European presented himself at the Central Police Station and said that he had been set upon by a couple of Chinamen in Queen's Road and robbed of his watch and gold ring. He also made a number of other statements of an incoherent character, and enquiries elicited the fact that the man had been in an asylum and was no doubt labouring under an hallucination.

The appointments of the Hon. W. M. Goodman to be Acting Chief Justice during the absence of Sir John W. Carrington and of the Hon. H. E. Pollock to be Acting Attorney-General are gazetted; also the appointment of Lieut.-Colonel Mainwaring to be Acting Commandant of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps. Captain W. H. C. Bland, R.A. has been appointed Adjutant of the Corps vice Captain L. A. C. Gordon, R.A., resigned.

Mr. A. G. Ward gave another organ recital at St. John's Cathedral on 10th April, when there was a very large congregation, showing how highly these recitals are appreciated. Mrs. Vallings, who was the vocalist, rendered most effectively the numbers appointed to her. The following was the programme:—

Sonata (No. 5) Mendelssohn.
Andante—Andante con moto—Allegro Maestoso.
"Cantilene Pastorale" Guilman.
Recitative and Arioso ("St. Paul")... Mendelssohn.
Mrs. VALLINGS.

RECIT.—"And he journey'd with companions towards Damascus, and had authority and command from the High Priest that he might bring them bound, men and women, unto Jerusalem."

ARIOSO.—"But the Lord is mindful of His own, He remembers His children. Bow down before Him, ye mighty, for the Lord is near us!"

Grand Fantasia in E minor "The Storm" Lemmens.

a. "Siciliano" Marshall.

b. "Romance sans paroles" (arr. for Organ by A. G. Ward) ... Thomé.

Air ... "How beautiful are the feet" ("Messiah") Handel.

Mrs. VALLINGS.

"How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things."

Marche Funebre (arr. for Organ by Best)... Chopin.

The fifth annual dinner of the Hongkong Football Club was held on Saturday evening last. The Hon. J. H. Stewart Lookhart, C.M.G., President of the Club, occupied the chair. Badges for specially useful play were presented to Messrs. Anton, F. H. Kew, Howard, Lowe, Noble, Hancock, and Danby. Mr. H. E. Green was prevented by illness from receiving the badge awarded to him by the Committee. A highly pleasant and entertaining evening was spent. Mr. A. G. Ward presided at the piano. The following was the programme, of which the various items were received with much enthusiasm:—

Toast The Queen.

Toast The Hongkong Football Club..

Proposed by H. E. Sir H. A. BLAKE, G.C.M.G.

Responder:—Mr. H. W. LOOKER (Capt., Assoc.)

Lieut. R. W. CASTLE, R.A. (Capt., Rugby.)

Song Mr. G. H. N. Sexton.

Presentation of Badges.

Song Mr. Ardron.

Toast Other Football Clubs in Hongkong.

Proposed by Mr. E. D. SANDERS.

Responder:—Mr. J. T. C. BUTLAND, R.N.

Song Mr. G. H. N. Sexton.

Toast Our Guests.

Proposed by the Hon. J. H. STEWART LOOKHART, C.M.G.

Responder:—Viscount SUDDALE, A.D.C.

Song Mr. G. H. N. Sexton.

Entertainment on the graphophone by Mr. C. T. Kew.

Toast The Chairman.

Proposed by Mr. G. H. PORTS.

"God save the Queen."

The China Mutual steamer *Hyson* has been purchased by the Apcars, and the vessel will go on the Hongkong-Calcutta run. Captain Fey, who arrived at Singapore by the *Lapora*, on the 6th April, is on his way up to Hongkong to take over the vessel, which replaces the *Aratoon Apcar*.—*Singapore Free Press*.

Captain Hallstrom, of the *Hikosan Maru*, who was in port last week, was at Cebu when the place was occupied by the Americans. Previous to the arrival of the latter, he used to see the Filipinos, about 500 in number, drilling every morning, but the force does not seem to have been a particularly formidable one, as there were only about four guns to every 100 men, the rest drilling with bamboos. Captain Green, with H.M.S. *Pigmy*, was there at the time for the protection of British property and subjects. He went ashore and was at once surrounded by Filipinos, who, however, did not venture to molest him, knowing full well that the guns of the *Pigmy* were trained upon them. Captain Hallstrom got his cargo of 2,500 tons of sugar without any trouble. As soon as the American war-ship hove in sight the Filipinos gave up at once.

At the Magistracy on Saturday morning, Hugh Jones, a private in the Welsh Fusiliers ("A" Company No. 4542), pleaded guilty to a charge of stealing a watch, valued at from \$2 to \$3, from a shop at 154, Queen's Road. The shopkeeper said that about nine o'clock on Friday night he was standing at the door when defendant came up to him and asked him to show him the watch produced. He took it out of the case and handed it to defendant, who ran away with it. He chased him to a hotel and called a constable to arrest him.—P. C. Macdonald (75) said the previous witness pointed defendant out to him. He followed him into the Globe Hotel and searched him but could not find the watch. On the way to the Police-station defendant said he had the watch and pulled it out of his stocking. Defendant was the worse for drink at the time, but was capable of understanding what he did. He admitted having been convicted before of larceny.—Defendant now said he had not been convicted before, and that he did not remember telling the constable he had been. He was sentenced to a month's imprisonment.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1898-99	1897-98
	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai.....	12,230,663	15,099,727
Foochow	12,976,578	12,607,188
Amoy.....	688,318	685,651
Canton	5,149,722	5,889,288
	31,044,281	34,281,854

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1898-99	1897-98
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai.....	16,621,547	20,836,000
Amoy	15,036,413	15,861,506
Foochow	9,178,280	7,740,343
	40,836,240	43,437,849

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO OCEANIA.

	1898-99	1897-98
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow...	22,783,272	19,462,293

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1898-99	1897-98
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	25,825,974	26,739,512
Kobe.....	13,658,363	15,604,288
	39,484,337	42,343,800

SILK.

CANTON, 1st April.—Tsatlees and Re-reels.—No stock; quotations only nominal. New Silk.—Some transactions in No. 1 Re-reels' Grant are reported. There are large orders for Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Re-reels on the market, but dealers refuse to sell. Filatures.—Continued to be in very good demand at hardening prices. From price paid we quote: \$930 for Sun Yue Lun 9/11, \$921 for

Miu King Lun 11/13, \$920 for Man Po Sing. Cheong Kee and Wing King Lun 9/11, \$915 for Kwong Shun Gheong 11/13, \$905 for Kwong Sun Hang 11/13, \$900 for Kwong Tack Shun 10/12, \$890 for Kwong King Loong 10/12, and Kwong Lun Hing 11/13, \$880 for Shun Kee 11/13, and King Seng 11/13, \$870 for Lee Hau Shang 10/12, \$815 for Victoria and King Wo Cheong 18/12. New Season's Long and Short-reels have been in good enquiry, but most of the dealers are unwilling to sell ahead as it is generally feared that the first crop will be short owing to scarcity of leaves.

SHANGHAI, 8th April.—(From Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Circular).—The Home market keep firm. Blue Elephants are quoted in London at 13/0, and Gold Kilings in Lyons at Fcs. 82.25. Raw Silk.—In old silk very little business has passed. In New Season Silk contracts are estimated at 1,450 bales for delivery June/July, consisting of 1,300 bales Tsatlees, 100 bales Kilang and 50 Wcosieh; total settlements for the new season we estimate at fully 4,000 bales. In Yellow Silk.—150 bales have changed hands this week, prices ranging according to quality of silk. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, April 1st to 7th, are: 612 bales White, 115 bales Yellow and 5,181 bales Wild Silk. Re-Reels And Filatures.—A small business doing. Settlement of New Season Silk for New York are reported, probably some 500/600 bales. Steam Filatures.—About 80 bales have changed hands this week. There are rumours of settlements for Lyons and New York, delivery June/July, but no definite details are obtainable. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: 3,756 bales to the Continent, 2,540 bales to America, and 146 bales to London. Wild Silk.—Nothing doing; most of the present stock has been sold and will go forward in the course of the next few weeks. Waste Silk.—Nothing doing.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1898-99	1897-98
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	59,201	47,965
Canton	28,862	21,099
Yokohama	18,982	18,130
	107,045	87,194

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1898-99	1897-98
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	9,405	12,135
Canton	9,360	11,163
Yokohama.....	27,836	31,360
	46,591	54,658

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 14th April.—Owing to large arrivals the market is weaker. Quotations for Formosa are \$68.00 to \$68.50. Sales 30 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 14th April.—The improvement last reported has not been maintained and prices are declining. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.87 to \$7.92	per picul.
do. " 2, White...	7.32 to 7.37	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown...	5.20 to 5.25	"
do. " 2, Brown...	5.10 to 5.15	"
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.75 to 7.80	"
do. " 1, White...	7.20 to 7.25	"
Swatow, No. 1, Brown...	5.00 to 5.05	"
do. " 2, Brown...	4.94 to 4.98	"
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	11.60 to 11.65	"
Shekloong: ..	10.45 to 11.50	"

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Silesia*, sailed on the 23rd March Port Said:—4 boxes essential oil. For Trieste:—67 bales galangal. For Havre:—1 case China ink, 2 cases sundries, 2 cases silks, 5 cases feathers, 7 cases rice paper, 29 cases shells, 31 cases blackwoodware, 34 rolls mats, 50 bales hides, 55 cases human hair, 55 cases bamboos, 64 cases China grass, 85 cases Chinaware, and 259 packages canes. For Havre and/or Hamburg:—2 packages feathers, 2 packages bamboos, 8 packages lanterns, 24 cases human hair, 24 cases Chinaware, 30 bales hides, and 50 rolls matting. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or London:—5 cases bristles and 1,337 cases camphor. For Hamburg:—1 case horns, 1 case silverware, 1 case silks, 2 cases China ink, 2 cases tea, 3 cases gongs, 3 cases human hair.

3 cases preserves, 5 cases essential oil, 5 cases pearlshell, 5 cases pictures, 6 cases bambooware, 8 cases cigars, 8 cases lacquerware, 1 case bamboo fans, 11 cases gamboge, 14 bales strawbraid, 15 case paper, 20 cases blackwoodware, 20 cases curios, 30 bales rattanahavinga, 46 bales hides, 50 cases cassia, 50 cases Chinaware, 54 cases palm-leaf fans, 69 bales rattanware, 149 bales ivory nuts, 154 cases bristles, 175 cases staranised, 176 rolls matting, 134 cases gallnuts, 273 cases crackers, 289 cases sundries, 360 packages canes, 700 bales broken cassia, 796 bales feathers, 900 cases cassia, and 1,520 cases camphor. For Hamburg and/or London:—190 packages canes. For Hamburg and/or Bremen:—49 bales bamboo and 51 cases curios. For Bremen:—6 cases curios, 33 cases bamboos, and 360 rolls matting. For Antwerp:—11 packages rattanware. For London:—1,076 packages merchandise. For Christiania:—2 cases private effects. For Genoa:—10 bales strawbraid.

Per P. & O. steamer *Bombay*, sailed on the 23rd March. For Glasgow:—12 cases blackwoodware. For Manchester:—34 bales waste silk. For London:—5 pkgs. feathers, 65 pkgs. lacquerware, and 6 pkgs. curios from Foochow. 300 bales bambooware, 84 bales canes, 109 packages feathers, 400 cases cassia, 63 cases Chinaware, 53 cases blackwoodware, 2 cases silks, 2 cases cigars, 6 cases preserves, and 46 cases sundries.

OPIMUM.

HOONGONG, 14th April.—The market close quiet for Bengal opium, at the following rates: New Patna \$820, Old Patna \$810, New Benares \$835, and Old Benares \$855.

Malwa.—There has not been much doing during the past week. Closing quotations are:—

New Malwa \$700 with all'ce from 1 to 3 catty.	
Old (2 yrs.) \$740	" " 1 to 2 "
" (3/4 ..) \$770	" " nil to 24 "
" (5/6 ..) \$820	" " to 34 "
" (7/8 ..) \$860	" " to 34 "

Persian.—Prices for the good quality of papered opium have risen and there is at present a good demand for this. Other qualities are not in good demand. Latest rates are:—Oily \$550 to \$650, and Paper tied \$650 to \$760, according to quality.

Today's stocks are estimated as under:—

Old Patna.....	1,754 chests.
Old Benares	79 "
New Benares	105 "
Malwa	690 "
Persian.....	1,811 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1899.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
April 8	825	845	832	855	700	740
April 9	825	842	832	855	700	740
April 10	825	842	835	855	700	740
April 11	825	840	835	855	700	740
April 12	822	840	836	855	700	740
April 13	822	840	836	855	700	740
April 14	820	840	835	855	700	740

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 14th April.—Moderate business at a decline of $\frac{1}{4}$ per picul. Stocks, about 8,000 bales.

Bombay.....	15.00 to 16.00 picul.
Karrache	to
Bengal (New), Rangoon, }	15.50 to 17.00 picul.
and Dacca	
Shanghai and Japanese,	20.00 to 21.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo.....	20.00 to 21.00 "
Madras (Best)	to
Sales: 700 bales Bengal (New), Rangoon, and acca.	

RICE.

HONGKONG, 14th April.—Prices are again advancing, the rain last reported being insufficient for the planting of the new crops. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.40 to 2.45
" Round, good quality.....	2.80 to 2.85
" Long	3.15 to 3.20
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ..	3.10 to 3.15
" Garden, " No. 1 ..	3.25 to 3.30
" White.....	3.70 to 3.75
" Fine Cargo	3.90 to 3.95

COALS.

HONGKONG, 14th April.—Very small retail business doing. Quotations are:—
 Cardiff \$18.00 to 19.00 ex ship, nominal
 Australian — to 11.00 ex ship, "
 Miki Lump } 9.00 to 10.00 nominal
 and Small }
 Moji Lump ... 7.00 to 9.00 ex ship, quiet
 Hongay double } 12.00 ex Godown
 screened
 Hongay Lump 8.00 to 8.50 ex ship
 Hongay Dust.. 5.50 to —
 Briquettes ... 10.50 to —

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 14th April.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn.—850 bales No. 10 at \$66 to \$73, 1,150 bales No. 12 at \$65 to \$77, 700 bales No. 20 at \$79 to \$83.50. White Shirtings.—150 pieces, Gold Tiger at \$6.10, 600 pieces Man and Lion at \$4.75. T. Cloths.—300 pieces 8½ lbs. Mex. X X at \$3.05. Turkey Red.—250 pieces 2½ lbs. Fluteman at \$3.99. Drills.—300 pieces 14 lbs. Peacock at \$3.92½.

COTTON YARN.—per bale
 Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s. 60.00 to 90.00
 English—Nos. 16 to 24.....101.00 to 108.00
 " 22 to 24.....106.00 to 110.00
 " 28 to 32.....114.00 to 120.00
 " 38 to 42.....125.00 to 131.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.—per piece
 Grey Shirtings—6lbs. 1.70 to 1.80
 7lbs. 1.92 to 2.00
 8.4 lbs. 2.35 to 3.10
 9 to 10 lbs 3.25 to 4.05
 White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.30 to 2.50
 58 to 60 " 2.70 to 3.35
 64 to 66 " 3.50 to 4.35
 Fine 4.35 to 7.05
 Book-folds. 3.75 to 5.65
 Victoria Lawns—12 yards ... 0.66 to 1.35
 T. Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y. 1.52 to 1.72
 7lbs. (32 "), " 1.85 to 2.10
 6lbs. (32 "), Mexs. 1.62 to 1.82
 7lbs. (32 "), " 2.10 to 2.75
 8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) 2.35 to 3.20
 Drills, English—40 yds., 14 to 16lbs 3.65 to 6.35

FANCY COTTONS.—
 Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8lbs. } 1.60 to 4.75
 Brocades—Dyed 3.00 to —
 Damasks 0.12 to 0.16
 Chintzes—Assorted 0.08 to —
 Velvets—Black, 22 in. 0.19 to 0.40
 Velvetens—18 in. 0.17 to 0.18
 Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.25 to 1.25

WOOLLENS.—per yard
 Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops. 0.60 to 1.50
 German — to —
 Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths. 1.00 to 2.25
 Long Ells—Scarlet 6.25 to 9.50
 Assorted 6.35 to 9.60
 Camlets—Assorted 12.00 to 32.00
 Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, } 9.00 to 20.00
 Assorted }
 Orleans—Plain 7.50 to 9.00

Blankets—8 to 12lbs. 3.50 to 14.00
 METALS.—per picul
 Iron—Nail Rod 4.20 to —
 Square, Flat Round Bar ... 4.20 to —
 Swedish Bar 6.00 to —
 Small Round Rod 4.50 to —
 Hoop ½ to 1½ in. 5.75 to —
 Wire 15/25 9.00 to —
 Old Wire Rope 2.50 to —
 Lead, L. B. and Hole Chop ... 8.80 to —
 Australian 8.70 to —
 Yellow Metal—Muntz, 14/20 oz. 40.00 to —
 Vivian's, 14/20 oz. 40.00 to —
 Elliot's, 14/20 oz. 40.00 to —
 Composition Nails 75.00 to —
 Japan Copper, Slabs 38.50 to —
 Tiles 38.50 to —
 Tin — to —
 Tin-Plates 6.25 to —
 Steel ½ to 1 5.75 to —

SUNDRIES.—per picul
 Quicksilver 146.00 to —
 Window Glass 5.35 to —
 Kerosene Oil 2.05 to —

SHANGHAI, 8th April.—(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report).—Piece Goods.—At last there are some definite signs of improvement in our market, although so far they have not advanced much beyond the enquiry stage. From both of the principal Northern markets favourable advices have been received and there is a decided disposition to buy in replacement of the sales there. The difficulty is, however, to find available supplies, American being in special request, particularly the lower cost lines, and considerable anxiety is shown to enter into forward transactions, judging by the amount of telegraphing that is going on. The manufacturers both in America and England are so full of orders it seems to be quite the exception to be able to put anything through for reasonable delivery, and at the same time there is no concession in price obtainable, even if the late arrival here is not an insurmountable barrier to the business. The excellence of the clearances at present is the most tangible proof of the revival in the demand, the fresh transactions reported being scarcely calculated to give a very active appearance to the market. It certainly looks as though an important advance must take place in prices in the near future, as the great obstacle to it so far, namely the large quantity of cheaply bought goods here, is rapidly disappearing, and only those of considerably higher cost are coming in now. The opening prices in Newchwang were scarcely up to those paid at first in Tientsin, but appear to have given satisfaction to the sellers, and at the same time are not too high to prevent the goods going readily into consumption. Tientsin is waking up now, the large supplies forwarded from this at the opening of the season are being cleared off and fresh orders are being placed here. Ningpo and the River markets are not displaying much activity as yet, which accounts for the poor show that is made by Manchester makes this week. In spite of the unprecedentedly heavy arrivals of Indian Yarns this week prices seem to have found bottom at last, a large business having been done in these spinings at steady prices. The bulk of the cheaply contracted for cargo appears to have arrived now, which should assist the market somewhat. Japanes.—Some 500 bales have changed hands this week on the basis of Tls. 62.00 to Tls. 63.00 for No. 16s., and Tls. 65.00 to Tls. 66.00 for No. 20s., the sales by Foreign Importers being 50 bales each of Gold Elephant 16s. at Tls. 63.00 and 20s. at Tls. 65.75/66.00. Local.—Fresh business is limited, as many of the Mills have still contracts running for their total output. The sales this week amount to 650 bales as follows:—E-wo No. 2, 100 bales, No. 12s. Tls. 62.50, No. 14s. Tls. 63.50—packed. Wo Sung, 300 bales, No. 14s. Tls. 63.00—packed. Yu Yuen, 150 bales, No. 12s. Tls. 61.00, No. 14s. 63.00—unpacked, Wha Sheng, 100 bales No. 12s. Tls. 60.00—unpacked. Resales of bundles have been as follows:—No. 12s. Tls. 59.00/61.00, No. 14s. Tls. 60.50/63.00 and No. 16s. Tls. 61.00/64.00. Cotton.—In order to induce the Ginning Mill Owners to join their Association the Ginning Mill Owners have agreed to take the stocks the former have on hand at Tls. 14.00 per picul, some 10,000 piculs in all, when it is hoped that satisfactory arrangements can be made to regulate the price according to the quotations for American and Indian Cotton in the principal markets of the world, an excellent scheme if workable, but it seems rather a tall order! Ordinary market cargo has been bought by outsiders at Tls. 12.50.

METALS, 10th April.—(From Messrs. Alex. Biefield & Co.'s Report).—In Metals nothing has been done during the last fortnight excepting two transactions that have come under our notice, namely 100 tons of Bale Hoops at 99s. c.i.f. and 150 tons, at auction, of Steel Plate Cuttings at Tls. 2. No orders have been carried forward, and the Chinese are still heavily laden with old stock and very little consumption.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 14th April.

ON LONDON.—
 Telegraphic Transfer 1/11½
 Bank Bills, on demand 1/11½
 Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight 1/11½
 Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight 1/11½
 Credits, at 4 months' sight 1/11½
 Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 2/00
 ON PARIS.—
 Bank Bills, on demand 2.47
 Credits, at 4 months' sight 2.51
 ON GERMANY.—
 On demand 2.00½

ON NEW YORK.—
 Bank Bills, on demand 47½
 Credits, 60 days' sight 49
 ON BOMBAY.—
 Telegraphic Transfer 147
 Bank, on demand 147½
 ON CALCUTTA.—
 Telegraphic Transfer 147
 Bank, on demand 147½
 ON SHANGHAI.—
 Bank, at sight 73
 Private, 30 days' sight 74
 ON YOKOHAMA.—
 On demand 4½ % pm.
 ON MANILA.—
 On demand 1½ % pm.
 ON SINGAPORE.—
 On demand 1 % pm.
 SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Ruying Rate... 10.09
 GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael... 52.80

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 14th April.—The market has ruled very quiet during the week under review, and rates have shown an inclination to decline. Business has been dull and there are no transactions of any importance to report.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have found small buyers at 270, 269, and 268, closing quiet at 267 per cent. prem. with sellers. Nationals have further advanced to \$21½ with small sales.

MARINE INSURANCES.—The market continues very dull and with the exception of small sales of China Traders at \$62 there is no business to report.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs still continue on offer at \$297½ and Chinas at \$81 with no business.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have changed hands at \$30 and \$29½, closing rather easier at \$29½. Indos continue dull and sales are reported at \$68 for cash and \$70 for June. Douglasses have found buyers at \$56½ and small lots of shares are still obtainable at that rate. China Manilas and China Mutuals continue unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been on offer during the week at \$170 without leading to any but a very small business; at time of closing sellers rule the market. Luzons have changed hands at \$49 and close weak at that rate.

MINING.—Punjoms have ruled firm, and with buyers and no sellers the rate gradually crept up to \$6, at which the market closes. Charbonnages have again changed hands at \$150 in fair lots and are in some favour at that rate. Queens continue neglected with little or no business at 60 cents and 65 cents. Jelebus advanced to and changed hands at \$9, closing quieter at \$8.75. Olivers and Great Easterns have ruled almost nominal at quotations and almost without business. Raubs have changed hands in small lots at \$60½ and \$60.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have changed hands in small lots at 330 per cent. prem. for cash, and at 331 and 330 for settlements. Kowloon Wharves have ruled rather weaker with shares offering at \$87 and no business. New Amoy Docks have changed hands at \$15 and Wanchais at \$39.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands after small sales at \$78½ and \$79 close firm at former rate. Kowloon Lands are still enquired for and have further advanced to \$22 with little or no business. Hotels continue steady, but with no transactions, at \$78. West Points have been negotiated at \$28, and Humphreys at \$9 and \$9½.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkongs have found buyers at \$84½ and \$84. In the absence of local business the rates for the Northern Mills are taken from the latest Shanghai circulars.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands continue to improve and are enquired for in small lots at \$24, whilst little or no business is reported for the week. Watsons have been dealt in to some extent at \$14½, \$14½, and \$15, closing quieter at \$14½. Fenwicks have changed hands at \$34 and are still wanted at that rate. Campbell and Moores have been negotiated at \$10½ and China Providents at \$9.40, \$9.50, and \$9.60.

Closing quotations are as follows —

COMPANY.	UNIT.	QUOTATIONS
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	125	267 p. t. prem =
China & Japan, Ltd.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary	£4	£1, sales
Do. deferred	£1	£5.58.
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	21½, buyers
Foun. Shares...	£1	21½, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A....	£1	nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	£10	110½, sales
China Prov. L. & M...	£10	\$9.65
China Sugar	£100	\$170, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 75
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 80
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 80
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 400
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 55
Hongkong	\$100	\$44, sellers
Dairy Farm	£6	4, sellers
Fenwick & Co., Geo....	£25	34, buyers
Green Island Cement...	£10	24, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	£50	31
Hongkong & C. Ga....	£10	12, sellers
Hongkong Electric	£10	12, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways ..	£100	142½, sal. & buyers
Hongkong Hotel	£50	77
Hongkong Ice	£25	112
H. & K. Wharf & G...	£50	87
Hongkong Rope.....	£50	170
H. & W. Dock	£125	330, p. et. prem.,
Insurance—		
Canton.....	£50	142½, sellers
China Fire	£20	81
China Traders'	£25	6, sales & sellers
Hongkong Fire	£50	29½, sal. & buyers
North-China	£5	Tls. 14
Straits	£20	44, sellers
Union	£50	230
Yangtze	£60	120, sellers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv	£50	79
Humphreys Estate..	£10	94
Kowloon Land & P.	£30	12, buyers
West Point Building	£40	28, sales & sellers
Luzon Sugar	£100	49, sales & sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages.....	Fr. 500	\$150, sales
Gr. Estn. & O'donian	£5	\$3.60, buyers
Jebeu	£5	8.75
Queens Mines Ltd...	25c	60 cts.
Liver's Mines, A....	£5	6, sellers
Do. B.....	£3½	4.75, buyers
Lunjom	£5	6
Do. Preference.	£1	1.60
Laubs	£14s. 10d.	60, sellers
New Amoy Dock	£64	15, sales
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila ..	£50	77½, sellers
China Mutual Pref.	£10	19, 15s., buyers
Do. Ordinary	£10	24, 10s., buyers
Do. Do.	£5	2, 10s., buyers
Douglas Steamship	£50	56½, sellers
H., Canton and M...	£15	29½, sellers
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	68, sellers
Star Ferry	£7½	144
Tebrau Planting Co. ...	£5	5, sellers
Do.	£2	3, sellers
United Asbestos	£2	1.50, buyers
Do.	£10	10, nominal
Wanchai Warehouse...	£37½	39, sales
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	£10	14½, sellers

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 10th April. —(From Messrs J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report).—Business has been confined chiefly to Indo-China S. N. and Hongkew Wharf shares. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Some cash shares were sold to Hongkong at 210 per cent. premium. Marine Insurance.—Local business has been confined to a sale of Straits Insurance shares at \$4. A sale in Singapore at \$3 is reported. Fire Insurance.—Hongkongs were placed at Hongkong at \$294, and Chinas at \$50. Shipping.—A large business has been done in Indo-China S. N. shares. A purchase for cash was made at Hongkong at \$69, and local sales were made at Tls. 51½ cash, Tls. 51/52 for April, Tls. 52/24 for May, and Tls. 53 for June. Sugars.—The Directors of the Perak Sugar Cultivation Co. having declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent. payable on the 17th, shares have been in demand, and sales were made for cash at Tls. 45, and for delivery on 10th September at Tls. 52. China Sugar Refining shares changed hands at \$170. Mining.—Raub Australian Gold Mining shares were placed to Hongkong at \$604. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. changed hands at Tls. 180. Shanghai Engineering Preference shares were sold at Tls. 101, and some Founders' shares at Tls. 220.

Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares were placed at Tls. 136/142 cash, Tls. 142½/145 for the 30th June, and Tls. 148 for July. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares changed hands at Tls. 82½. Industrial.—Cotton Mill shares have been weak. Ewo shares were sold at Tls. 76½. International shares at Tls. 80, Laou-Kung-Mow shares at Tls. 80, and Soy Chee shares at Tls. 400. Tugs & Cargo Boats.—Shanghai Cargo Boat shares were placed at Tls. 150. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares changed hands at Tls. 64 cash and Tls. 65 for 31st May. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares were placed Old at Tls. 80 and New at Tls. 65. Loans.—Shanghai Land Investment Company's 5 per cent. Debentures changed hands at Tls. 90.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 14th April.—Since last report there has been a fair demand for steamers, and rates remain steady.

From Saigon to Hongkong, the rate has fallen to 22 to 23 cents per picul (according to size of steamers). At the close a firmer tone prevails to Philippine ports. Small carriers are wanted at 40 cents to Manila and 45 cents per picul to Iloilo; in other directions there is no enquiry.

From Bangkok to this medium sized steamers are wanted at 27½ cents inside and 22½ cents per picul outside the bar.

Three fixtures are reported from Newchwang to Canton at 32 to 34 cents per picul, and further small tonnage is wanted at 32½ cents per picul.

Java to Hongkong, a steamer has been taken at 40 cents per picul for wet sugar.

Coal freights remain firm at \$2.50 Moji to Hongkong, and at \$3.25 to Singapore.

Sailing tonnage.—The American ship *Sachen* has been fixed to load Shanghai and Hongkong for New York, the German barque *Eric Rickmers*, 1,952 tons, proceeds to Bangkok to load for Europe under orders from owners.

The following are the settlements:—

Bucephalus—British steamer, 1,192 tons, Newchwang to three ports North Java; thence to Hongkong, 2½ cents per picul.

Tordenskjold—Norwegian steamer, 904 tons, Newchwang to Canton, \$7.750 in full.

Dagmar—Norwegian steamer, 921 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 32 cents per picul.

Prosper—Norwegian steamer, 788 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 34 cents per picul.

Marie Jebsen—German steamer, 1,771 tons, four ports north coast Java, Hongkong, 40 cents per picul.

Stolberg—German steamer, 1,553 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$3.25 cents per picul.

Kara—British steamer, 1,507 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$3.30 per ton.

Quarta—German steamer, 1,146 tons, Hoihow to Singapore, passengers, \$7.05 each.

Zucena—British steamer, 941 tons, Saigon to Iloilo and Hongkong, 63 cents per picul.

Taichong—German steamer, 939 tons, Saigon to Manila, 40 cents per picul.

Chittagong—British steamer, 1,241 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 25 cents per picul.

Triton—German steamer, 1,033 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 24 cents per picul.

Beulavig—British steamer, 1,453 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 25 cents per picul.

Kongberg—British steamer, 862 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 24 cents per picul.

Deuteros—German steamer, 1,251 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 23½ cents per picul.

Germania—German steamer, 1,773 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 22 cents per picul.

Taiwan Maru—Japanese steamer, 1,483 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 23 cents per picul.

Benlomond—British steamer, 1,752 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 22 cents per picul.

Tetartos—German steamer, 1,578 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 23 cents per picul.

Quarta—German steamer, 1,146 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 23½ cents per picul.

Ingraban—German steamer, 894 tons, monthly, 2 months, \$6,000 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR LONDON.—*Pyrrhus* (str.), *Bengal* (str.), *Tamba Maru* (str.), *Sado Maru* (str.), *Myrmidon* (str.), *Sarpedon* (str.), *Canton* (str.).

FOR BREMEN.—*Prinz Heinrich* (str.).

FOR MARSEILLES.—*Oceanien* (str.), *Tamba Maru* (str.), *Sado Maru* (str.).

FOR HAYRE AND HAMBURG.—*Babelsberg* (str.), *Serbia* (str.), *Savoia* (str.), *Konegsberg* (str.), *Heidelberg* (str.).

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—*Gaelic* (str.), *Hongkong Maru* (str.), *Queen Margaret*, *Carmarthenshire* (str.), *China* (str.).

FOR VANCOUVER.—*Empress of India* (str.).

FOR VICTORIA, B.C., AND TACOMA.—*Victoria* (str.).

FOR PORTLAND, O., *Columbia* (str.).

FOR NEW YORK.—*Liv* (str.), *Catania* (str.), *McTaurin* (str.).

FOR AUSTRALIA.—*Tsinan* (str.).

FOR STRAITS AND CALCUTTA.—*Chelydra* (str.).

FOR THURSDAY ISLAND.—*Yawata Maru* (str.).

FOR STRAITS AND BOMBAY.—*Bormida* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

April—

ARRIVALS.

- 8, *Kanagawa Maru*, Jap. str., from Moji.
- 8, *Gaelic*, British str., from San Francisco.
- 8, *Prosper*, Norw. str., from Saigon.
- 8, *Unity*, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
- 8, *Quarta*, German str., from Saigon.
- 9, *Progress*, German str., from Saigon.
- 9, *Murakumo*, Jap. torpedo-boat destroyer, from London.
- 9, *Haiching*, British str., from Tamsui.
- 9, *Sumidagawa Maru*, Jap. str., from Tamsui.
- 9, *McLaurin*, Amr. ship, from Shanghai.
- 9, *Taksang*, British str., from Canton.
- 10, *Martha*, German str., from Canton.
- 10, *Centaur*, British str., from Saigon.
- 10, *Esmeralda*, British str., from Manila.
- 10, *Candia*, British str., from Singapore.
- 10, *Hongkong*, French str., from Hoihow.
- 10, *Java*, British str., from London.
- 11, *Changsha*, British str., from Shanghai.
- 10, *Meefoo*, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 10, *Byron*, British str., from Novorossisk.
- 10, *Knivsberg*, German str., from Haiphong.
- 10, *Taisang*, British str., from Canton.
- 11, *Sullberg*, German str., from Canton.
- 11, *Salasia*, French str., from Marseilles.
- 11, *Lyeemoon*, German str., from Canton.
- 11, *Loksang*, British str., from Tientsin.
- 11, *Cathay*, Danish str., from Antwerp.
- 11, *Kagoshima Maru*, Jap. str., from S'pore.
- 11, *Chwanshan*, British str., from Bangkok.
- 11, *Sungkiang*, British str., from Manila.
- 11, *Undaunted*, British str., from New Orleans.
- 11, *Zafiro*, U.S. supply-boat, from Manila.
- 11, *Hoihao*, French str., from Haiphong.
- 11, *Chelydra*, British str., from Calcutta.
- 11, *Tsinan*, British str., from Kobe.
- 12, *Ariake Maru*, Jap. str., from Moji.
- 12, *Jason*, British str., from Penang.
- 12, *Nurnberg*, German str., from Moji.
- 12, *Robilla*, British str., from Yokohama.
- 12, *Formosa*, British str., from Tamsui.
- 12, *Thales*, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 12, *Clara*, German str., from Hoihow.
- 12, *Hanoi*, French str., from Haiphong.
- 12, *Tetartos*, German str., from Saigon.
- 12, *Holstein*, German str., from Saigon.
- 12, *Benalder*, British str., from London.
- 13, *Nanyang*, German str., from Taiwanfoo.
- 13, *Vortigern*, British str., from New York.
- 13, *Cebu*, American str., from Cebu.
- 13, *Choysang*, British str., from Shanghai.
- 13, *Fausang*, British str., from Portland, Or.
- 13, *Bengal*, British str., from Shanghai.
- 13, *Coromandel*, British str., from Bombay.
- 13, *Maidzurn Maru*, Jap. str., from Swatow.
- 13, *Triumph*, German str., from Haiphong.
- 13, *Marquis Bacquehem*, Austrian str., from Trieste.
- 13, *Daphne*, German str., from Moji.
- 14, *Nanchang*, British str., from Tientsin.
- 14, *Hailoong*, British str., from Tamsui.
- 14, *Bormida*, Italian str., from Bombay.
- 14, *Glaucus*, British str., from Liverpool.
- 14, *Oanfa*, British str., from Glasgow.
- 14, *Loongmoon*, German str., from Shanghai.

April—

DEPARTURES.

- 7, *Narcissus*, British cruiser, for London.
- 8, *City of Peking*, Amr. str., for S. F. elisco.
- 8, *Yarra*, French str., for Europe, &c.
- 8, *Loyal*, German str., for Hongay.
- 8, *Sullberg*, German str., for Canton.
- 8, *P. C. C. Kiao*, British str., for Hoihow.
- 8, *Orestes*, British str., for Shanghai.
- 8, *Hailan*, French str., for Hoihow.
- 8, *Kwanglee*, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 8, *Futami Maru*, Japanese str., for Sydney.
- 8, *Kara*, British str., for Swatow.
- 8, *Hikosan Maru*, Jap. str., for K'notau.
- 8, *Wingsang*, British str., for Shanghai.
- 8, *Deuteros*, German str., for Saigon.
- 8, *Kohinur*, British str., for Calcutta.

9, Kawachi Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
 9, Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
 9, Cheang H. Kian, British str., for Amoy.
 9, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 9, Pronto, Norw. str., for Port Arthur.
 10, Sishan, British str., for Swatow.
 11, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
 11, Taksang, British str., for Tientsin.
 11, Sumidagawa Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 11, Victorious, H.M. battleship, for Y'hama.
 11, Loksang, British str., for Canton.
 11, Shini Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 11, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Nagasaki.
 11, Changsha, British str., for Yokohama.
 11, Salazie, French str., for Shanghai.
 11, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
 11, Java, British str., for Shanghai.
 11, Byron, British str., for Port Arthur.
 12, Tordenskjold, Norw. str., for Newchwang.
 12, Cerberus, British str., for Swatow.
 12, Chusan, German str., for Manila.
 12, Undaunted, British str., for Kobe.
 12, Dagmar, German str., for Chefoo.
 12, Unity, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
 12, Hongkong, French str., for Hoihow.
 12, Lyceum, German str., for Shanghai.
 12, Lysberg, German str., for Chefoo.
 12, Taisang, British str., for Swatow.
 12, Tritos, German str., for Singapore.
 12, Bennington, U.S. g.-bt., for Manila.
 13, Benlomond, British str., for Saigon.
 13, Bankoku Maru, Japanese str., for Keelung.
 13, Taiwan Maru, Japanese str., for Saigon.
 13, Fukui Maru, Japanese str., for K'notzu.
 13, Quarta, German str., for Hoihow.
 13, Machew, British str., for Swatow.
 13, Loosok British str., for Hoihow.
 13, Sendai Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 13, Knivsberg, German str., for Shanghai.
 13, Prosper, Norwegian str., for Newchwang.
 13, Candia, British str., for Nagasaki.
 14, Ariake Maru, Jap. str., for Kutchipotzu.
 14, Germania, German str., for Saigon.
 14, Thales, British str., for Coast Ports.
 14, Hoihao, French str., for Hoihow.
 14, Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
 14, Cathay, Danish str., for Bangkok.
 14, Formosa, British str., for Amoy.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Haimun*, from Coast Ports, Messrs. C. T. Gardner, C.M.G., and Kamamuri.

Per *Yarra*, for Hongkong from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Riene, Messrs. Carlos Solf, Lieung Tit Kwan, and Lieung Ah Wai; from Kobe, Messrs. Charles Young, Acalarier, Agnasos, Parris, and D. Farrians; from Shanghai, Mr. W. Eichler, Dr. P. C. Risloff, Lieut.-Col. G. F. Browne, Miss C. M. Carthy, Mrs. Thos. T. Evans, Messrs. W. J. Burns and J. S. Hope Simpson.

Per *Glenshiel*, from London, &c., Lieut. and Mrs. Borrett, Messrs. Henes, Barham, and Hawkes.

Per *Kanagawa Maru*, from Moji, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Buller, Mr. and Mrs. A. Fischer, Messrs. Holistien, J. G. Davidson, J. Reed, T. Johnston and Capt. M. Forbes.

Per *Gaelic*, from San Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. H. Schubart, Mr. W. S. Allen, Mr. Chas. E. Tripp, Captain W. H. Allaire, Mr. H. R. Lewis, Mr. G. S. Beebe, Lieut. E. G. W. Pratt, Mr. N. C. Brooks, Mr. O. E. Dutton, Col. and Mrs. A. A. Woodhull, Mr. Geo. Fredericks, Mrs. Cass, Mr. W. E. McGill, Mr. E. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. N. W. McIvor, and 207 Chinese.

Per *Esmeralda*, from Manila, Messrs. G. McNair, Thomson, J. S. Campbell, E. A. Earbys, Redfern, R. Gore Booth, Juan Tejada, Mr. and Mrs. Equia and four children, Mrs. Connez and two children, Mrs. Adele Flores, Dr. F. H. Bowers, Mr. and Mr. Dumas and child, Mr. R. Romalto, and Mr. A. Blacado.

Per *Java*, for Hongkong from London, Lieut. D. F. Tullock, and Mr. C. Derrick; from Singapore, Rev. and Mrs. Haggard, 2 children and infant, and Miss Blackmore. For Shanghai from London, Miss Bush, Mr. C. Borwick, Mrs. Blechynden and infant, Messrs. Lambory, Kite, and J. Walker. For Yokohama from London, Mrs. Eyres, Mrs. Edwards and 2 infants, Mr. Warburton, and Miss Messer.

Per *Changsha*, from Sydney, &c., Misses Wood and Warley, Mrs. Hall and infant, Mrs. McKie, Mrs. Andrews, Messrs. Wheatman, Turner, Morangani, Peters, Bates, Henderson,

Nelson, Saunders, Forbes, Freeman, Emanuel, Baddeley, Giles, Mrs. Look Hop and 5 children, Messrs. Read and Lee Sing.

Per *Salazie*, for Hongkong from Marseilles, Mr. Determan; from Singapore, Mr. Koni Liang, Mrs. Noa Liang and infant, Mrs. Hoen Njong, Mrs. Njong Njong and infant, Messrs. Bortwick, Theo Tianto, L. C. Duntra, Mr. and Mrs. Sampson, Mr. and Mrs. Janssen, Messrs. Loh Peng, Loh Ching, Loh Keng, Wong, Song Wai, and Gumper; from Saigon, Messrs. Smith, Edwards, and Khan Loug. For Shanghai from Marseilles, Mr. Fogolla, Mr. and Miss Ratonieff, Mr. and Mrs. Punoff, Messrs. Tooritzen, Vakorine, F. S. Deacon, Mr. and Mrs. Overyu, Mr. Flindree, Revs. R. P. Edouard, Henri, E. Othon, Dominique, Michel, Sisters Herminie, Alix, Juliette, Celine, de Perboyre, Eugenie, Bernard, Marcelle, Marthe, des Vertus, Chiara, Angela, Elysine, and Alphonsine, Mr. Sen and son, Mr. Alex. Kebba, Rev. R. P. Lucien, Messrs. J. Levamat and Kroliven, Revs. Fr. Bernard and Basile; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Hart, and Mr. Willis; from Singapore, Mr. Fergusson; from Saigon, Messrs. Samour and Gachou. For Kobe from Marseilles, Messrs. Piprot and Schumann; from Singapore, Mrs. Okane and Mrs. Otavabay. For Yokohama from Marseilles, Messrs. Boissiere, K. Merecky, Fremoulet, Daniloff, Abakanoff, Sokoloff, and Rev. K. P. Monge; from Colombo, Misses Pahnner and Lowell, Mr. Tovani, Mrs. Watt, Mrs. Bramber, Mr. and Mrs. Greaves, Capt. Mohamed Bruks Khan, and Mr. Steven Ross; from Singapore, Messrs. Tan Chung, Chin Keng, Mrs. Omoto, Mr. Konese, Mrs. Okets; from Saigon, Mr. and Mrs. Gamard, and Mr. Smith.

Per *Chelydra*, from Calcutta, &c., Lord Douglas Compton, Major MacLagan, and Lieut. Griffith.

Per *Formosa*, from Tamsui, &c., Mrs. Douglas and child, Capt. Brown, Rev., Mrs., and Miss Pabalze, and Master Edwards.

Per *Thales*, from Coast Ports, Rev. Martin and 2 children, Rev. Arias, Mr. Dickie, Capt. Jones, Messrs. Riddle, Emmett, Misses Whitby Goldie and Faberas.

Per *Rohilla*, from Yokohama for Hongkong, Messrs. A. Sharpe and Howlett, Mrs. Lon She and infant, Mr. Michta, Rev. A. R. Fuller, and Mr. On hong; for Bombay, Mr. D. R. Digaria; for Port Said, Capt. Wolchasky, and Lieut. Raftopulo; for London, Messrs. A. C. Messum and J. Tanaka, Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood.

Per *Chaysang*, from Shanghai, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Carlin and 4 children, and Mr. Jerdine.

Per *Bengal*, from Shanghai for Hongkong, Mr. C. H. Hay, Miss Page, Major Bowet, Messrs. W. C. G. Howard and Quo; for Brindisi, Lieut. Geambardella; for Port Said, Lieut. Golovison; for Marseilles, Mrs. C. W. Hay; for London, Mr., Mrs., and Master Smith, Dr. and Mrs. E. E. Henderson and infant, Mr. and Mrs. Henry, Dr. E. Henderson, Mr. W. F. Inglis, Mr. W. F. Inglis, Miss Brook, Mrs. Bronnan and child, Mrs. Evans and infant, Master G. Evans, Misses M. and N. Gillies, Master A. Gillies, Mr. Creek and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Faers, boy and children, and Mr. F. S. Joyce.

Per *Coromandel*, for Hongkong from London, Miss Loug, Mrs. Bremner, Mr. S. J. Robins, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis and 3 children, Messrs. E. Rostran, F. Hillman; from Marseilles, Messrs. H. W. Lethbridge, Kingsford, Mr. and Mrs. Slade, Mr. and Mrs. Norris, Messrs. D. H. Cumming, F. B. Deacon, P. A. Barlow, and J. Allen; from Ismailia, Sergt. and Mrs. Payne and child; from Bombay, Mrs. Haskell, Mr. D. Haskell, and Mr. E. Haskell; from Colombo, Mr. F. E. B. Wilson; from Singapore, Messrs. J. Staggs, H. Lippegans, Lieut. T. Jackson, Lieut. Lloyd, Messrs. Bremner and Gutierrez. For Shanghai from London, Mr. R. Scott, Mrs. Saxon and infant, Mrs. Inman and child, Mrs. Bennett, Miss Bourignon; from Marseilles, Messrs. C. W. Gordon, F. Berlin, S. W. Aldis, W. B. Brown, H. Jaeger, and C. M. Cherry; from Brindisi, Messrs. H. Staeger and C. Bergel; from Venice, Mr. A. de Agostini; from Ismailia, Mr. V. Birch; from Bombay, Mr. F. Joseph; from Colombo, Messrs. H. H. Bennett, A. H. Heath, and Theodore; from Singapore, Mr. D. Francis. For Yokohama from London, Mr. J. W. Hepworth, Mr. and Mrs. Tuely, Miss Tuely, Mr. and Mrs. Waddell, Miss Waddell, Messrs.

P. G. Benson, Mrs. Benson, Miss B. Benson, Miss A. Benson, Mr. G. F. Taylor, Dr. Douglas, and Mr. E. H. Walton; from Marseilles, Messrs. G. F. Palgrave, R. Berg, Mr. and Mrs. List, Messrs. J. H. Dixon, McKenzie, Maddock, E. H. Brown, E. H. James; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Winters, and Mr. W. M. Simpson; from Melbourne, Mr. J. Scarlett; from Singapore, Capt. Jackson, Mr. M. Richards. For Kobe from Bombay, Mr. F. Simpson. For Nagasaki from Colombo, Capt. A. D. E. Shelly.

DEPARTED.

Per *Yarra*, for Saigon, Messrs. Renonocé, Blain, Planté, R. Pescio, Orsini, Lafont, G. C. White, Morin, E. Camin, and Mrs. Laohal; for Singapore, Mrs. Brown, Messrs. J. J. Francis, van Mol, M. M. Eisenstark, and Philips; for Marseilles, Mrs. A. J. David and 3 children, Mrs. O. E. Kellog-Cravens, Messrs. R. M. Moses, D. Gubbay, and P. Gomez.

Per *City of Peking*, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Morse, Messrs. P. M. Sethna, S. W. Cartwright, L. N. Leefe, Boyd Bredon, Lieut. Borrett, Messrs. C. Holstein, A. Juster, J. W. Tild, C. Twiss, James Burns, and O. D. Bland; for Kobe, Mr. H. H. Carter; for Yokohama, Mr. H. Breuniger; for Honolulu, Mr. W. H. Cornwell; for San Francisco, Dr. Brunhoff, Miss A. Abbott, Rev. J. E. Abbott, Surgeon J. E. Page, Messrs. R. H. Walker, W. D. Wilcox, E. J. Bates, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. H. Stowell, Mr. W. A. Stowell, Miss E. E. Fawcett, Mrs. E. M. Fawcett, Messrs. D. Q. Ewing, Jos. Pheby, J. M. Woods, Sir Theodore Fry, J. J. Murphy, R. Hancock, L. M. McCormick, Chun Chuck, and Condido Solai; for Vancouver, Mr. and Mrs. Henry H. Sherman, and Mr. E. Sharp; for New York, Messrs. V. H. Muller, J. T. Maclean, Mrs. G. Bernia and infant, Mrs. Cacenes and infant, Mrs. O. Francisco, Mrs. R. Villareal, Messrs. S. Birey, E. Marquina, F. Tiongsan, M. Alcontara, P. P. Tiongsan, and C. Tiongsan; for London, Mr. and Mrs. J. Dixon, Mr., Mrs. and Miss J. C. White, Mrs. Stoxella, Sir Richard and Lady Udney, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Marks, and Mr. C. T. Gardner; for Hamburg, Messrs. Wilhelm Potzsch and Edgar Thorel; for Paris, Commander Valette.

Per *Futami Maru*, for Thursday Island, &c., Dr. and Mrs. Jarwill, Rev. A. Adamson, Major and Mrs. J. V. Jeffreys, Dr. and Mrs. Case, Capt. and Mrs. Rodd, and Miss Rodd.

Per *Kanagawa Maru*, for Singapore, &c., Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Buller, Commander Sohta, Capt. and Mrs. Forbes, Mr. and Mrs. A. Fischer, Messrs. J. Davidson, J. Reid, J. Johnstone, E. S. Sutton, Capt. and Mrs. L. A. Gordon and 2 children, Lieut. K. G. Campbell, Mr. Centeno and family.

Per *Kawachi Maru*, for Japan, Miss Donbigh, Rev. Bishop Foss, Lord Darmer, Major N. Inouye, Miss Vincent, Miss G. Vincent, Messrs. Kodama, Uyesugi, Ogura, S. Tanaka, T. Ito, and H. Midzuta.

Per *Kohinur*, for Singapore, Lieut. and Mrs. O. C. Niven, and Mr. Chans Mohammed; for Penang, Messrs. Lee Shun Chin, Chom Sun Hing, Pon Wah Sek, Mrs. Yee Hoo, Mrs. Ning Hoo; for Calcutta, Miss Gasper.

Per *Salazie*, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. H. Green, L. Colonel Fraser, Rev. Wagner, Messrs. A. Haupt, Yan Wie Yue, Ching Sing Chow, Chan, Cheong Chi Pio, H. Sampson, H. Piry, Dang Tsan Lang, C. F. Stewart, W. Hunter, C. A. Perpetuo, and Mrs. C. A. Perpetuo; for Nagasaki, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. da Rozario; for Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. Kusakabe, Mr. and Mrs. Brookman, Misses S. J. Brookman, E. M. Brookman, Mr. and Mrs. N. W. McIvor; for Yokohama, Mr. I. Marten, Miss K. Marten, Mrs. A. Johnstone, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Mackenzie, Messrs. R. W. Borthwick, J. E. Hay, Kwong Yen Pong, Pan and child.

Per *Java*, for Shanghai from Hongkong, Messrs. J. Blechynden, J. S. Campbell, T. Black, Q. E. d'Avigdor Goldsmid, and K. Waley Cohen; from London, Miss Bush, Mrs. Blechynden, Messrs. Lambory, Kite, and J. Walker. For Yokohama from London, Mrs. Eyres, Mrs. Edwards and 2 children, Mr. Warburton, and Miss Messer.

Per *Hongkong*, for Hoihow, Dr. and Mrs. Kerr; for Haiphong, Mr. George Vlavianos and Mr. K. Yoshimsu.

Printed and Published by D. WARRIS SMITH, at 29, Wendenham Street, Victoria, Hongkong.